

# **Courtland High School Bands**



2008-2009  
Student Handbook

# Courtland High School Band Handbook

## Table of Contents

Absences .....	5
Awards .....	7
CBPA .....	11
Class Procedures .....	10
Color Guard .....	4
Concert Attire .....	8
Course Offerings and Descriptions .....	3
Extra-Curricular Activities .....	6
Fees .....	5
Fundraising .....	6
Grade Evaluation .....	4
Instrument Storage and Lockers .....	9
Marching Band Camp .....	8
Medical Information .....	5
Music, Music Folders, and Drill Books .....	8
Officers (Student Leadership) .....	6
Payment of Monies .....	6
Philosophy of Practice .....	9
Rules of Conduct .....	11
School Owned Equipment .....	9
Telephone Use .....	10
Trips .....	10
Uniforms .....	9

## A Tradition of Excellence

### “Defining Excellence”

Excellence is such an abstract idea that no one can say precisely what it is. But, the more we recognize it, the more we come to understand it.

We know, for example, that excellence is a choice people make, just as mediocrity is a choice. Excellence is not a gift you’re born with, but something you strive for, fight for, out of the conviction that being as good as you can be is what life is all about.

We know that the road to excellence is not always going to be an easy one. The journey begins with caring and ends with going that extra mile to achieve the standard that reflects a leader’s vision. The destination of excellence is reached only through hard work and perseverance.

Why do some people choose excellence while others are enjoying plenty of success by being ordinary? They choose excellence because they have to, because it is in their nature to take pride in the quality of their work.

# *Course Offerings*

## **Symphonic Band**

This class is open to advanced students by audition or by recommendation of the directors. This is an advanced ensemble. Therefore, the requirements for participation in this class are of the highest caliber. Students should be able to display a high level of playing ability and should exemplify the standards of the Courtland Band Program. Students are expected to show a higher understanding of music theory, music history, and concepts of basic musicianship. Instruction will be designed to further enhance the individual and ensemble performance skills through the performance and study of some of the more advanced band literature.

Symphonic Band meets during the school day and occasionally rehearses after school in preparation for performances, which include concerts, District Festival, and other events that may be scheduled as opportunities arise. Students are required to attend all rehearsals and performances.

## **Concert Band**

This class is open to all students who have prior instrumental music experience. Beginning Band students may be considered for this class at the discretion of the director. Concert performance skills are developed through group and individualized instruction. Students learn basic music theory and vocabulary, as well as basic playing fundamentals and sight reading skills. The class is designed to optimize the potential, talent, and musicianship of the intermediate level student, through the rehearsal and performance of quality wind band literature.

Concert Band meets during the school day. Occasionally, after-school rehearsals may be scheduled in preparation for performances. Students are required to attend all rehearsals and performances.

## **Percussion Class**

Open to students who have previous percussion experience by recommendation of the band directors. Concert performance skills are developed on a wide variety of percussion instruments through group and individualized instruction. Students learn basic music theory and vocabulary as well as basic playing fundamentals and sight-reading skills. This class combines with the Symphonic Band and Concert Band for all performances. Students will also have an opportunity to participate in various percussion ensembles as a part of this class.

## **Marching Band (Extra-Curricular) “The Royal Brigade Marching Band”(RBMB)**

The Royal Brigade Marching Band is open to students who have had previous musical experience or by recommendation of the band directors. Performance skills are developed through group and individualized instruction. Students learn basic music skills as well as marching fundamentals. Students perform at all home football games, some away games, and band competitions during September, October, and November.

The RBMB meets after school during the fall on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 2:45-5:15. Students are also expected to participate in the summer band program that includes summer rehearsals and band camp. Band Camp is usually held during the month of August. Band Camp attendance is mandatory. Attendance at summer rehearsals is expected but not required. School owned instruments are available for some students based on need and ensemble instrumentation.

### ***Color Guard(Fall)***

The Color Guard functions as one of the most important visual elements of the marching band show. All guard members undergo rigorous training in dance and equipment work. Equipment is, typically, provided by the school or by the CBPA. Guard members may be responsible for paying part of the cost of their own equipment or uniforms which may change yearly based upon the type of show performed.

### ***Winter Guard and Winter Drumline***

These are competitive groups that rehearse and perform during the “winter sports” season. They are open to all band and guard members and will be selected by audition.

### ***Grade Evaluation***

A complete list of classroom expectations will be provided to the students on a course syllabus that will be distributed on the first day of class.

The grades for all music classes will be calculated as follows:

- 30% Performance based on participation in concerts and festivals.
- 50% Written tests and reports
- 20% Daily Class Grade

Extra credit may be earned through performance in outside musical activities such as GRYWE, GRYSO, Greater Richmond High School Jazz Band, performing in church, musicals, studying with an approved private teacher, and other activities deemed acceptable by the director.

The Daily Class Grade shall be based on the following criteria:

1. Possession of ALL class materials (music, pencil, instrument, etc.)
2. Punctuality
3. Cooperation and general attitude with respect to class rules

## *Absences*

Attendance at all rehearsals and performances is required. Students will be excused from rehearsal only if the director is notified in writing prior to the absence. This, of course, does not include special situations such as extreme illness, death in the family, or circumstances beyond the control of the parties involved. However, if an emergency does arise, please make every effort to contact the director so that appropriate arrangements can be made. Any student who is absent from a performance may complete an alternative assignment at the discretion of the director. In the case of Marching Band, students may risk losing their eligibility to letter for that season. Frequent absences or tardies, excused or unexcused, may result in a student's dismissal from the RBMB.

## *Medical Information*

Students are required to have a medical form properly filled out and signed by the parents before he or she will be allowed to participate in music activities. Students are also required to provide proof of hospitalization insurance coverage. This proof can be a photocopy of the parents' health insurance card or school insurance card. This can be copied directly onto the back of the medical form that is provided. If the student is not covered, the parents will need to attach a letter stating that the school will not be held responsible for charges incurred due to medical emergency and that the parent assumes legal responsibility for all such charges.

The director and staff will make every effort to assist the students with personal medical problems and with the administering of prescribed medication as well as giving out other medications that would be used for minor medical ailments as outlined by parental consent and Spotsylvania County Public School Policy.

## *Fees*

Each year, students may be required to pay a band fee for participation in the marching band. This fee will be used to help defray the cost of instructional staff, purchase of music, transportation, uniforms, instrument repair and replacement, and other items associated with the marching program. This fee will be kept to a minimum so as not to exclude anyone from participation in the band program. There will be additional costs for all students pertaining to any trips taken during the spring. There will be adequate notice of such expenses and the students will have the opportunity to raise some of the money for these trips through various fundraisers.

## ***Fundraising***

Throughout the course of the year, all students will be asked to participate in fundraising activities. These activities may range from assistance with concessions to selling of items through a designated fundraising company. A large portion of our annual budget is determined by the success of our fundraising efforts. The number of fundraisers will be kept to a minimum. However, during years in which a spring trip is planned, there will be a need for increased fundraising.

## ***Payment of Monies***

All money must be turned in at the designated time in a sealed envelope with the name, amount, and description of the payment on the outside of the envelope. All payments and fundraising monies must be turned in on the date requested. A collection box is available in the director's office for the collection of student monies. Please do not give money to the director unless instructed to do so. Money should be placed in the collection box or given to the designated representative of the CBPA.

## ***Extra-Curricular Activities***

Students may participate in other activities while involved in music. This may cause a conflict. However, this conflict will be worked out if the student is capable of doing both activities well. Most conflicts are avoided through cooperation and communication. It is best to limit the number of activities in which you are involved, but any situation that is able to be worked out will be given consideration. If you have any questions, please speak with the director.

## ***Band Officers***

A slate of Band Officers will be chosen each spring for the following school year. These officers will be selected by the director based on their performance and leadership ability. These officers will be asked to carry out various responsibilities pertaining to their specific office. The director reserves the right to remove any student from an office in the event that a student fails to meet the obligations of his or her position.

# *Awards*

The following is a list of awards that are presented by the Courtland Band Program: (Additional awards may be given at the discretion of the director and staff)

## **John Philip Sousa Award (Band)**

Presented each year to the most outstanding senior band member. The recipient is determined by the director.

## **Most Improved(Symphonic, Concert, Jazz, Percussion)**

Presented to one member of each class in recognition of their outstanding musical achievement during the school year. The recipients are determined by their peers

## **The Director's Choice Award**

This is a new award. Presented each year to the student who most completely exemplifies the spirit of the Courtland Band Program. The recipient not only demonstrates outstanding musical ability, but also possesses other characteristics that set him or her apart from the group. This person's attitude should reflect a commitment to the principles, goals, and objectives of this program. Their willingness to help others and to assume the role of a leader should be unquestionable. The motivation should not be to bring notoriety to one's self, rather to uplift those around so that everyone might share in the joy the group's successes. This person is also a reflection of these ideals off the field...in the hallways, in the classroom...This person *is* The Spirit of the Courtland Band Program.

## **Letter**

A letter is awarded to students who participate in Symphonic or Concert Band, have perfect attendance for performances for Marching Band, try out for All County Band/District Band, and perform at least one piece on their primary instrument at the Solo and Ensemble Festival.

## **Gold Bars**

Gold Bars are presented to those students who have participated in the marching band program for two or more years. Students must meet the requirements for earning a letter, as stated above, in consideration for this award.

## **RBMB Marching Superlatives**

Numerous awards are presented in recognition of outstanding achievement in Marching Band. These awards are determined by the members of the RBMB.

## *Marching Band Camp*

Band Camp is held each year during August. It is during this time that we are able to have our most intense rehearsals. During camp, the focus is on learning the music and the drill so that the band can be prepared for the upcoming season. The vast majority of our work is accomplished during this two to three week period.

It is extremely important for all members of the band to participate in Band Camp. Additional staff is brought in to provide specialized instruction to the students. Band Camp is a great deal of work, but is also a lot of fun.

**PLEASE, PLAN YOUR VACATIONS AROUND BAND CAMP.** You will be notified by February of the previous school year as to the specific dates of camp.

## *Philosophy of Practice*

In order to minimize the number of extra rehearsals, students should practice a minimum of ½ hour every night. This means every student must take his or her instrument home on a regular basis. Students who play larger instruments will be given special consideration as the need arises. Every effort will be made to see that students who have large school-owned instruments will have an instrument at home and one at school.

## *Concert Attire*

Concert Uniforms are provided for each member of the performing ensembles. Students may be required to purchase a part of the uniform for concert performances (tux shirt, socks, shoes, etc.)

Students with any problem in obtaining these items must contact the director in sufficient time so that arrangements can be made to secure what is needed. Students not in proper attire will not be allowed to perform, resulting in a reduction of grade.

## *Music, Music Folder, and Drill Books*

Students are responsible for their music, music folders, and drill books. Flip folders and lyres (marching band) must be purchased by the student. There will be a replacement cost for lost music, folders, or drill books.

## *Marching Band Uniforms*

The school will provide each student with a uniform for marching band. Students will be responsible for purchasing shoes and gloves of a style designated by the director.

The band uniforms will be dry cleaned on a regular basis. The band T-shirt is part the uniform and is to be worn under the uniform at all times. In the case of extreme heat, we may remove the jackets. The T-shirts allow us to do that and still look uniform.

The band uniform is not to be taken home for any reason. All uniforms will be kept at the school and issued to the students prior to each performance.

Following a performance, students are responsible for seeing that their uniform is properly hung and all parts are returned to the proper place within 30 minutes from the time they are dismissed.

Students are to wear only the complete uniform at all functions designated by the director. DO NOT appear in public or outside the bandroom, bus, and car in partial uniform. Students are not to wear jewelry when in uniform. Earrings, watches, etc. are a distraction and detract from the overall look of the uniform. Guard members may wear jewelry as a part of the uniform as deemed appropriate by the staff.

Students need to be extremely careful when eating or drinking while in uniform. Chewing gum is not allowed while in uniform.

## *School Owned Equipment*

Students using school owned instruments are required to sign a contract with the school. The instrument is to be used only by the person to whom it is assigned. That person is responsible for any damages that occur. **If the instrument is dropped or abused, the person assigned the instrument is responsible for the cost of the repairs.** The school shall determine which company will make authorized repairs. If the instrument is stolen while the in the possession of the student, that student is responsible for restitution.

## *Instrument Storage and Lockers*

All students are required to have their name on the outside of their instrument case, including school instruments. Students will be assigned a storage locker or an area for their instrument. ***Any Student caught opening or tampering with another student's instrument will be referred to the office for disciplinary action.***

Neither Courtland High School nor the Courtland Music Department is responsible for items that are stolen from the storage areas or from the band room. These areas will be locked when they are not in use; however, this may not prevent theft from occurring. Take the appropriate precautions in securing your belongings.

## *Telephone Use*

Students will not be permitted to use the phone in the Band Room without permission. Use of the phone during school hours is prohibited unless there is an emergency. Students may use the phone after school hours, if there is a band function, to call their parents in order to secure a ride home.

## *Spring Trips*

Spring trips will be taken at the discretion of the director. These will be trips of major significance and will require additional fundraising on the part of the students.

## *Class Procedures*

Students are expected to enter the band room in an orderly and timely fashion. ***Gum, Food, and Drinks are not allowed in the band room.*** Students are expected to be in their seats ready to play by the time the director takes the podium (usually by the time the bell rings). Students who are not in their seats will be counted tardy. Students are to follow all instructions including stopping and starting with the director.

All students are to have a pencil, music, and all other materials necessary for a successful learning experience on a daily basis. Failure to have these materials will result in a reduction of the Daily Class Grade.

The behavior in the class is based on one thing, ***RESPECT***. Each student must possess a high level of respect for him or her self, the director, and other members of the class. Out of respect, students should maintain a level of discipline that allows everyone in the class to reap the full benefits of the instruction. Talking during rehearsals will not be tolerated. Questions and comments will only be acknowledged when a student raises his or her hand. Excessive talking will lead to disciplinary action.

Students should always show respect for the facilities and equipment of Courtland High School. ***Any student caught destroying school property will be referred to the office for disciplinary action.***

## ***General Rules of Conduct***

The rules of conduct as outlined by Spotsylvania County Public Schools and Courtland High School apply to all band students

In addition to those guidelines, the following rules also apply:

NOTE: There may be additional rules that apply to specific situations that are not included in this list.

1. Directions given by the Band Director, Staff, Student leaders, or Chaperones are to be strictly followed.
2. The use or possession of tobacco, illegal drugs, and/or alcohol is strictly prohibited.
3. The use or possession of a firearm is strictly prohibited.
4. During a band activity, all students are expected to travel to and from the activity with the band.
5. All members of the band are to remain in the designated areas during band functions.
6. Mature social behavior is expected from all members at all times.
7. Profanity or obscene gestures will not be tolerated.

Remember, as members of this organization, you represent Courtland High School. That places a great deal of responsibility on each and every one of you. For many people, their only impression of Courtland is what they see reflected through the Band Program. It is my desire that people will see a first-rate, classy group of young ladies and gentlemen who represent Courtland High School and Spotsylvania County with a level of maturity, pride, and integrity that is unequalled by any other group of its' kind.

## ***Courtland Band Parents Association(CBPA)***

The Courtland High School Band Program could not exist without the support of the CBPA. This organization is made up of parents who are taking an active and concerned role in the education of their children. This organization provides the bulk of the financial stability that allows the program to grow and to provide the students with the highest quality education possible. All parents are invited and encouraged to come and be a part of this crucial element of the Courtland Band program. Participation in this group is not all work. There is a great deal of fun to be had while working closely with the students and staff. Come and see what you might be able to do!