

Cousino High School

Band Handbook



Mr. Jason M. Rose
Director of Bands

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this handbook is to acquaint and inform all parents and students in the instrumental music program with features, policies, rules and regulations of our organization. Members are required to follow the policies, rules and regulations of the Warren Consolidated Schools and the instrumental music programs. 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 the name of the Cousino High School. As a member of the Cousino High School Band Program you are part of one of the schools largest, most respected and important organizations. As with any fine organization, the success of the program depends on the pride, loyalty, and cooperation of all its members. The band director shall have authority to suspend or amend any instrumental music policy at any time deemed necessary in the best interest of the overall band program. With an emphasis on fundamental teaching and a demand for excellence, the Cousino High School Band Program has established itself as one of superior quality

PHILOSOPHY

The band program at Cousino High School offers the opportunity for students to gain many lifelong skills and develop a sense of responsibility to themselves and the organization. Experiences with music develop a student's ability to make value judgments, to function logically as well as intuitively, and to utilize one's innate creativity. Students will acquire a better understanding of commitment, leadership, and the mental discipline required for public performances.

COMMUNICATION

The best way to keep up-to-date with the latest news from the Cousino High School Band Program is by visiting our website. The website is updated frequently with the official calendar, new information, forms, procedures, etc. The website address is:

www.cousinobands.com

Additionally, all student and parent email addresses will be uploaded into our charms system at the beginning of the year, allowing the director and members of the band booster executive board to communicate with families easily.

WELCOME FROM THE BAND BOOSTERS!

All parents of students in band here at Cousino High School can become a member of the band boosters after paying the band booster fee. Meetings are held the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. in the Cousino High School Media Center. We welcome your attendance and participation and would like you to take part in your student's band experience. The Boosters help the instrumental music directors with fundraising, apparel, uniforms, food and drink, band camp, color guard, football games, marching competitions, and chaperoning trips, to mention just a few. We always need extra help and Committee Chairpersons. Our Parent Volunteer Form on Charms is a great communication tool to let us know how you would like to help. Please complete the form and return it to our booster president and we'll contact you if we need help!

**PARENT VOLUNTEERS ARE ALWAYS
NEEDED AND APPRECIATED!**

**THE 3rd WESNESDAY OF EACH MONTH 7:00 P.M. -
CHS MEDIA CENTER**

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU SOON!

Dear Parents and Students:

Congratulations on becoming a member of the Cousino High School Band program. The commitment of the individual members of any organization is vital to its success. The Cousino High School music program has a commitment to each member to insure the success of every student maximizing their potential as a musician and individual. Our goal is to maintain a music program of the highest quality. The cornerstone of our program is discipline and excellence, and is fostered through our student leadership, positive attitude and determination. Your commitment to excellence is crucial to our success. We hope this year proves to be even more successful as we build our program not only for today, but for the future.

We are looking forward to an incredible year! Please take the time to read this handbook and keep it on hand for reference. Members of the band program have the responsibility to abide by the rules in the classroom, during concerts, and during all band related activities. As your child's teacher I can only do so much. You, the parent, can make a crucial difference by supporting the efforts of your students and the band director.

Some examples of how you can help are:

- Schedule all doctor appointments, tightening of braces, etc., outside of the school day.
- Encourage a daily practice routine.
- Attend your child's performances.
- Reiterate the importance of teamwork, responsibilities, self-discipline, and manners.
- Have your student at all performances on time.

I believe all parents want their children to be successful. I can assure you my goal as band director is to help each student be the best that he/she can be whatever the endeavor. Instrumental music not only teaches music, but also instills life skills to enable each student to grow into a responsible adult. Your student will find daily announcements written on the board in the band room. Students are reminded daily about rehearsals and performances and are also given a yearly calendar. I am proud of the tradition of excellence that has been established and look forward to a great year with the Cousino High School Band program. Be sure to check our website and Charms for updates and schedule changes:

www.cousinobands.com

Please consider joining our fabulous Band Boosters group. They meet the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM. in the Media Center. This organization of parent volunteers help with all aspects of our program. Without this group the band program would not be what it is today. You will find more information about the Cousino Band Boosters in this handbook.

On the last page is a place for both parent and student to sign acknowledging that you have read the material, understand its contents, and agree to follow the guidelines, as well as contact information. I hope that you are as excited about the upcoming year as I am.

Sincerely,

Jason M. Rose
Director of Bands
Cousino High School

Band Course Descriptions

Marching Band

This ensemble is extra-curricular and meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:30-4:30 during the fall season. Band camp, invitational, parades, and football games are all required activities for membership in the ensemble. Away football games and potential basketball games are optional “pep band” activities. This ensemble is open to all students with an instrumental music background.

Jazz Band

This unique instrumental ensemble performs a wide variety of jazz, rock, blues, and other types of music utilizing big band instrumentation: saxes, trumpet, trombone, drums, piano guitar, and bass.

Open to Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors by audition only

Symphonic Band

This instrumental music ensemble performs an array of advanced instrumental music literature. Throughout the school year, various performance opportunities will be made available and/or required.

Open to Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors by audition only

Concert Band

This instrumental music ensembles performs wide variety of genre and emphasizes the continued development of musical performance skills. Throughout the school year, various performance opportunities will be made available and/or are required.

Open to Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors – no audition required

Cadet Band

Cadet band is available as an introductory band to train students for the technical and musical demands of the other performing bands. Students in this band will focus on the fundamentals of performance, such as developing a characteristic tone, rhythm and counting, music reading ability, interpretation skills, and overall musicality. Through the year, various performance opportunities will be made available and/or required.

Mostly freshman – no audition required

Other Ensembles

Over the course of the year, many extra-curricular ensembles might become available to students in the program, including, but not limited to: jazz ensemble, jazz combo, clarinet choir, etc.

Cousino Band Policies

MEMBERSHIP

As a member of the Cousino High School Band, you are a member of one of the schools largest, most respected, and important organizations. As with any fine organization, the success of the program depends on the pride, loyalty, and cooperation of all its members. The band program is a group activity that demands dependability of the membership. When accepting membership in the Cousino High School Band Program, you agree to:

- Report promptly and attend all rehearsals and performances.
- Practice sufficiently to be able to perform to the best of your ability at each rehearsal and performance
- Make a daily commitment to learn as a musician and band member
- Consistently conduct yourself in a manner that is honorable to your school, band, and community

ATTENDANCE

Band is an academic class, so it does take priority over out of school scheduling! You receive a grade for your work, and credit toward graduation. We also have an extensive “outside of school” performance schedule, and since performance is part of our academic process, student musicians should expect to perform as part of their grade.

Each area of interest that you pursue deserves your BEST effort without becoming your EXCLUSIVE effort. We try very hard to accommodate the schedules of our athletes and other students. Please check your schedule if you are involved in any sports, non-academic group, or academic group (I.E. early college, dual enrollment, MMSTC, etc) and compare all schedules. Please contact Mr. Rose with any conflicts so that they can be worked through with all coaches, teachers, and advisors.

After school marching band rehearsals are scheduled from 2:30-4:30 on Tuesdays and Thursday. These rehearsals will last until our last performance of the season. We may also have rehearsals on these dates for performances leading up to parades and other performances outside of the marching band season. Attendance at band camp and all performances for marching band is required, as well as 90% of all rehearsals in order to receive PE credit after two seasons.

If you accept the responsibility of being a member of a performing group, you accept the responsibility of being present and on time to all performances and rehearsals. Excused absences from performances are granted ONLY by the director and in the cases of personal illness or a death in the family. In this case, a PARENT should contact Mr. Rose as soon as possible BEFORE the performance to notify of a student’s absence.

WORK DOES NOT EXCUSE YOU FROM A PERFORMANCE OR REHEARSAL

If you are absent from a performance in one of your band classes, you will have one week from the date to make it up in terms of an essay. It is the students responsibility to seek out the essay assignment from Mr. Rose. No make-up assignments will be given out at the end of the semester for students looking to improve their grade due to absences.

The schedule is in your hands, so make the necessary arrangements **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!** If you have a conflict with any date, you must speak with Mr. Rose **IMMEDIATELY!**

EACH STUDENT PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE AT EVERY PERFORMANCE

CLASSROOM RULES

Preparation:

- Check the board daily for announcements, music order, etc.
- Begin each class period by assembling your instruments and arranging music
- Warm-up properly
- Always have a pencil
- Know your part with the director calls on you to play

Promptness:

- Band classes will be seated, ready to play 5 minutes after the bell rings
- Marching band will be on the field with instruments and any other needed items at 2:30 for after school rehearsal

Silence:

- This is a matter of self-discipline, respect, and courtesy
- Stop play and talking when the director is talking
- Remain silent as director gives instructions
- During rehearsal, stop playing when the director or drum majors stop.
- When the director is on the podium, its time to focus on the music.

Room Cleanliness:

- No food, candy, or beverages are allowed in the band room during rehearsals, except for water
- If you would like to eat lunch in the band room, please ask permission from Mr. Rose. Once we find wrappers, leftover food, sandwich bags, ants, or mice in the band room, that privilege will be taken away.
- Percussion area **MUST BE KEPT IN ORDER DAILY!**
- Practice rooms and locker rooms must be kept in order as well. Once they start to get messy, that privilege will be taken away.

- Leave music stands and chairs orderly

Equipment Needed:

- Instrument in good working order
- Folders with music, scale sheets, etc
- Marching Band students must have their flip folders
- Pencils – random pencil checks do occur
- Metronome app and music stand (for home practice)
- Students will be assigned a band locker for their instruments
- Students can request a blue hallway locker for general storage from Mr. Rose

GENERAL BAND POLICIES

1. Use of tobacco, drugs, vaping supplies, alcohol, or any other illegal substance is strictly prohibited during all band trips and functions.
2. Strive to be approximately 10 minutes early for any rehearsal or performance. This will allow time to make any preparations that are necessary
3. Be on your best behavior at all times. Cooperate with whoever is in charge of your group
4. Don't fall behind in your other classes. It is your responsibility to maintain your grades in all other classes!
5. Strive to do your best 100% of the time. Your effort directly affects the efficiency of rehearsals and performances
6. Only instrumental music students should enter the band room, unless accompanied by another band student.
7. There is always an exception to almost every rule. Any exceptions should be cleared with Mr. Rose

STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM

Our student leaders are a very important part of the band program. Drum majors, section leaders, and Tri-M Members are the student leaders of the entire organization. We can only continue to build on the successes of the past if we continue to have outstanding student leadership. Student leaders are expected to be the first to arrive and the last to leave. Good leaders look for jobs that need doing; they don't wait to be asked. Good leaders know that respect comes from peers only when it is earned. The leadership team should strive to always set an example by their musicality and behavior.

Drum Majors

The drum majors assume leadership rolls in all marching performances of the Patriot Marching Band. These positions are awarded to the individuals who demonstrate the best ability during the auditions, held in the Spring. Drum Majors are required to attend either FJM or MSU drum major camp each summer. Drum Majors typically arrive 30 minutes early to practices and

performances to help set up, organize, and discuss whatever event is taking place. They are always representing the band and expected to act as such.

Section Leaders

The section leaders assume leadership rolls in their section of the Patriot Marching Band. These positions are awarded to the individuals who demonstrate leadership and dedication to the band program. Interviews are held during the spring. Their responsibilities include, but are not limited to, scheduling weekly sectionals in the summer, tracking section attendance, distributing new music, and determining part placement on the field. They are also responsible for adjusting charts on the field and helping others with basic fundamentals of marching band.

Tri-M Music Honors Society

The Tri-M Music Honors Society is a group that is available to juniors and seniors who have at least a 3.0 GPA, have been in multiple music ensembles while at Cousino, and who like to lead and volunteer. Members of the group are required to get 15 volunteer hours a year, hold monthly meetings, and put on a benefit concert every year.

SHEET MUSIC

At Cousino, the majority of the time you will be given sheet music originals. Music is a major investment for a band department. Each concert arrangement used in our ensembles costs from \$50 to \$250 to replace. Many publishers no longer print many of the works which we perform due to the high cost of inventory. Some parts cannot be ordered individually, and the entire work may require ordering. When a piece of music is lost, we must replace that entire piece of music. The cost of an individual part lost or damaged will be charged to the students using the music. Parts must be marked in **PENCIL ONLY!** If you do not receive a particular song, it is your responsibility to ask the director for a copy.

INSTRUMENTS

Your instrument is your avenue to expression. Instruments must be cared for and maintained. School-owned instruments are serviced annually. General maintenance and up-keep are the responsibility of the student using a school instrument. Repairs needed due to improper use or storage of an instrument is the responsibility of the student borrowing the instrument. Personally owned instruments are also expected to be maintained and ready to perform. You are virtually absent from class if you do not have your instrument and may be evaluated as such. Each of the instruments need the following:

- Flute: Soft cloth and cleaning rod
- Reeds: Swab, 3 good reeds, and cork grease
- Brass: Valve/slide oil, tuning slide grease, snake cleaner
- Percussion: Snare drum sticks, yarn mallets, and stick bag

At this stage of your musical career, you may be thinking about upgrading your instruments or moving to a professional horn. Before purchasing a new instrument, please check with Mr. Rose for advice. There are a lot of “junk” horns out there that repair shops won’t touch due to the fact that they use non-standard parts.

EVALUATION AND GRADING

Members of the Cousino Patriot Band Program are expected to do their individual best to learn about the music and progress on their respective instrument. Performances are a required part of the educational process. Per the WCS Student Handbook, students are evaluated in the following manner:

- Classwork (25%) – In band, this takes the form of your weekly participation grade. You get 5 points/week, one for each day. If you are on-time, working hard, and are prepared, you get your participation point for the day. Random Pencil-Check also count as classwork
- Assessments (75%) – Assessment grades are typically performances (100 points each) and playing tests (points vary)

AWARDS

Awards are earned on a point system, that are kept track of on the Charms Office Assistant program. The following is how you earn points:

- Member of Concert Ensemble – 800 Points (missing performance is -200 points)
- Member of Marching Band – 200 Points (missing performance is -50 points)
- Solo & Ensemble – 100 Points/Event
- Private Lessons – 200 Points/Semester
- 1st Chair – 100 Points
- Honors Bands – 100 Points
- Miscellaneous points may be awarded at the discretion of the director.

The typical student earns 1000 points a year. This is the typical order of awards

- Freshman (1000 points) – Jacket Numbers
- Sophomore (2000 points) – Varsity Letter
- Juniors (3000 points) – Instrument Patch
- Seniors (4000 points) – Senior Plaque

BANQUET

The Cousino High School Band and Choir Banquet is held each year in May for the purpose of celebrating the accomplishments of the bands and choirs. The dinner is typically buffet style, followed by the presentation of awards. All band and choir students, along with their families, are invited to attend. There is a cost for dinner, which is provided in the Spring. Along with MSBOA medals, varsity patches, and senior plaques, the band boosters provide the students with multiple scholarships, and the two senior awards: The John Phillip Sousa Award and the Louis Armstrong Award are also awarded to deserving seniors.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Every year the Cousino Band Boosters give out multiple scholarships to students, which all require a short 100 word essay describing your musical goals, what you would use the money for, and how this will benefit you and the band. All scholarships are awarded at the band banquet

Private Lesson Scholarships

Every year, 12 private lesson scholarships are given out (4 per grade 9-11). Scholarships are each \$100. Payment is issued after the student turns in the lesson verification sheet, showing that they took 10 lessons from an approved private teacher.

Cheryl Rymiszewski Underclassman Scholarships

Each year, three underclassmen are awarded scholarships named after Cheryl Rymiszewski. Cheryl was a Cousino Band Booster officer from 1999-2011. Three scholarships in the amount of \$100 each for continued musical study, such as Flue Lake Fine Arts Camp, honors bands, etc. Recipients have up to a year to use the scholarship.

Leif Lindblom Senior Scholarship

One \$250 scholarship is awarded on an annual basis to a deserving 12th grade student who is planning to major in the field of music. Students must be enrolled in one of the Cousino Band classes for the 2018-19 school year. This scholarship may only be used for continued study of a musical instrument.

FUNDRAISING

Beginning in August, the Boosters will hold a number of Fund Raisers throughout the year to aid in all areas of the Cousino Band Program. The Boosters use the money to replenish the general fund of the music department and to purchase items on the Director's wish list. On certain fundraisers, the proceeds raised will go directly to your student's trip account. **Your help is needed for the success of all fundraisers!**

UNIFORM INFORMATION

Marching Band

Uniforms are issued to marching band members during Band Camp. Cousino High School supplies each student with a marching uniform, hanger, garment bag, shako (hat), hat box, bibbers (pants), and jacket. All students must also have black marching shoes and back socks. During band camp, a representative from the shoe company will be at the school to fit students for marching band shoes and place the order. Gloves are ordered at marching band registration and delivered during uniform distribution.

The length of the marching uniform pants or jacket sleeves can be altered with snap tape that is provided on the inside. It is important that after you are measured, that you do not adjust these on your own accord – uniform parents should be consulted to help prevent damage to the uniforms. There should be no ironing taped, staples, pins, or hems of any kind made to the uniform.

The school district pays for the cleaning of each band uniform at the end of the year, however, you are responsible for the look and condition of your uniform. If your uniform becomes greatly soiled, you must have the uniform dry cleaned at your expense. **UNIFORMS ARE DRY CLEAN ONLY!!!** Fines for damages beyond normal wear will be assessed to the students. These uniforms are expensive and should be taken care of properly.

The uniforms are NOT to be taken home without permission from the band director. This includes for any performances and senior pictures. If uniforms are removed from their racks and found not hung up or being taken care of, disciplinary action for destruction of school property will be assessed and can include replacing the entire uniform and/or removal from the ensemble.

Concert Ensembles

Concert attire is required for all students and is as follows:

- Black socks and dress shoes (student provided)
- Black tuxedo pants
- White tuxedo shirt (student provided)
- Black tuxedo jacket
- Black bow tie

All students will have measurements taken at the beginning of the school year. Students are required to provide their own socks and shoes. Students who need a new tuxedo shirt may get measured and purchase one from our uniform company in October. Any damage that occurs with the school owned tuxedo pants or jacket is subject to replacement at your expense beyond normal wear.

The school owned uniforms are due to be turned in by marching band registration for the following year, held in early May. Once the uniforms have been sent to the dry cleaners, if uniforms are not turned in, it becomes the student's responsibility to get them dry cleaned at their own expense and must return the uniform both in the dry cleaner's plastic with the original receipt attached. Failure to do this will result in getting charged for the replacement of the delinquent articles.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Can my student join Marching Band or Jazz Band but not be in a regular band class?

Yes. However, 90%-95% of the students are in both marching band and a regular band class. Due to some scheduling problems (frequently involving participation in WCSPA, MMSTC and CPC), some students are unable to fit a band class into their class schedule. By allowing them to join Marching Band and/or Jazz Band, these students are able to continue participating in music and be a part of the band family. Please note, any scheduling problems preventing your student from being in a band class needs to be brought to the attention of Mr. Rose. Most conflicts have a resolution. Please ask our counselors questions about conflicts, because there is a solution.

Can my child be in band and participate in sports?

Yes. Students who participate in sports should inform Mr. Rose. Upon receipt of the sports schedule of practices and games, compare it to the band schedule and advise Mr. Rose of any conflicts as soon as possible. Mr. Rose and the athletic coach can then work out compromises. Communication between the athlete, Mr. Rose and the coach is very important.

Does my child have to participate in MSBOA Solo & Ensemble?

No, but they are strongly encouraged to participate. Participation in Solo & Ensemble makes the student into a stronger player which, in turn, strengthens the concert ensembles. Participating in Solo & Ensemble also helps the individual learn responsibility, long range planning skills, and working with others. The midterm exam will have a small ensemble component that can be fulfilled by participating in Solo and Ensemble.

Are instruments available through the school?

Yes. The CHS Music Department has a limited number of instruments that may be used by band students. Most of these are the instruments that "round out" a musical ensemble—tuba, baritone, bassoon, oboe, piccolo, bass clarinet, etc.—however some standard instruments are available. These instruments are on a first-come firstserved basis. Contact Mr. Rose if your student is interested in using one of the district's instruments.

Are the Band Boosters and CHS Booster Club the same organization?

No. The CHS Booster Club is a larger organization that is concerned with activities for the entire school population. Band Boosters is an organization just for CHS band parents.

How do I get involved with Band Boosters?

Come to one of our meetings! Band Boosters meet in the media center on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. All parents of band students are encouraged to become members of the Band Boosters. See the Band Booster Membership form for details!

Cousino High School Bands

Signature & Information Page

Students Name: _____

Parent Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Students phone number: _____

Students e-mail address: _____

Parents phone number(s): _____

Parents e-mail addresses: _____

Ensembles (please circle all that apply)

Cadet Concert Symphonic Jazz Choir Marching

We, the parents and band student(s) have reviewed the Cousino High School Band Handbook and agree to comply with its guidelines

Date: _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____