

Chatfield Senior High School

“Excellence is a Way of
Life”



Band Member & Parent
Handbook

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preface.....	1	Marching Band Contests.....	14
To Band Members.....	1	CBA-Colorado Regional and State Marching Band	
To Parents	2	Championship	14
Objectives of the Band Program	4	CBA Regional Marching Contest	15
Band Program Offerings	5	Special Events.....	15
Concert Bands	5	Trips	15
Jazz Ensemble	5	Marching Chargers Awards Night.....	15
Marching Band.....	5	Uniforms	16
Guard.....	6	Spiritwear.....	16
Pit Orchestra.....	6	Financial Obligations.....	17
Concert Band.....	6	Pit Orchestra.....	17
Concert Band Season	6	Private Lessons	18
Contests.....	7	Lockers.....	19
Jazz Ensembles	7	Parents Guide To An Excellent Band	19
All-County and State Groups.....	8		
All-County Concert Bands and Jazz Ensembles.....	8		
All-State Band.....	8		
All-State Jazz Ensemble.....	9		
Graduation Performances.....	9		
Spring Auditions	9		
Marching Band.....	9		
Description	9		
Goals	10		
Membership Process	10		
Sections (Horn Line, Guard, Percussion).....	10		
Drum Major.....	11		
Rehearsals	11		
August Camp (Summer Band Camp)	12		
“School Day Rehearsals”	13		
Performances.....	13		
Varsity Football Games	13		

Preface

This handbook describes the Chatfield High School Band Program and its policies, rules, and regulations.

Band members are required to follow the policies, rules and regulations of the Chatfield Senior High, Jefferson County Public Schools and the Band Program. School rules and policies are enforced at all times when a member is directly or indirectly involved in any activity sponsored by or in the name of Chatfield Senior High. School policy shall have priority over band policy in the event of any policy conflict.

The band directors shall have 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

What is the High School Band Experience?

Unlike most other classes, band offers a wide variety of opportunities for the student. Band is one of the few classes where excellence is not only expected, but also essential to success. Imagine if an English teacher graded everyone in the class to the level of the weakest student! In band everyone **MUST** perform at the highest level of excellence or a performance will not be pleasing to the ear. Even one person making a grade of 70% on a piece of music means 30% of the notes were played in error...not pleasant to hear!

In addition to teaching performance skills, participation in band teaches the student to be an active, thinking person. For each note played, there are numerous considerations and instantaneous decisions to make. How loud or soft? How fast or slow? How does the note start? How does it end? Who else plays it? Am I in-tune? Nowhere else on the CSH campus is the demand for active thought any stronger.

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

The Band Program at Chatfield Senior High has established itself as one of the finest in the state of Colorado. Students here have had experiences of which others can only dream. Few other activities offer the travel opportunities, the chance to meet and interact with the great minds in the field, and the satisfaction of knowing that your time, talent, and effort have paid off through the highest levels of achievement.

To Parents

Welcome to one of the most exciting organizations available to your student! The band program at Chatfield Senior High School offers many varied performance opportunities and gives members the chance to learn with each other and grow closer to one another. The program also offers the opportunity for students to

create relationships and life long friendships with other students from outside their own community. 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 CSH has established itself as one of the top programs in the state, with superior performing ensembles in symphonic, jazz, chamber music, color guard and drum line activities.

We hope that you share our excitement in creating these phenomenal opportunities for your students. We encourage parents to be active supporters of our efforts through the CSH Band Parent Association. Participation may be made through volunteer work such as chaperones, equipment crew, historian, and fundraising. 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. The band program produces a calendar kept on our website www.ChatfieldBand.com; you'll want to keep it nearby. Feel free to call any director for help and remember to come to the parent 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 the Chatfield Senior High School band director and staff:

Andy Michaud-Director of Bands
Mark Allwein-Percussion Caption Head
Russ Carroll-Color Guard Caption Head

Objectives of the Band Program

The CSH Bands form an integral part of school life and are recognized as an all-school activity. Band is one of the largest and most active voluntary student organizations and its members form a dynamic and exciting 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 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 atmosphere and color to certain school and community affairs while promoting and enhancing the dignity and reputation of Chatfield Senior 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

- Concert Bands:
 - Students enroll in band as a class, which meets during the normal school day. These classes are referred to as concert band, symphonic winds, and wind ensemble.
- Jazz Ensemble:
 - Students may elect to enroll in one of two jazz ensembles as a class. This class meets during the normal school day. Students in jazz ensemble must first be enrolled in a concert band.
- Marching Band:
 - The Marching Chargers have one band that is on a volunteer basis. Membership is open to all senior high students who are enrolled in band as a class.

- Guard:
 - Membership in the Marching Charger Guard is on audition basis only. Color Guard members may also be enrolled in a concert ensemble class.
- Pit Orchestra
 - The pit orchestra is an extra-curricular activity in which student musicians support the musical cast with their performance. Selection into this ensemble is by audition and recommendation.

CONCERT BAND

CONCERT BAND SEASON

Concert band season spans the entire school year and is where the majority of musical training takes place. The concert groups will receive ratings the CBA state concert band festival as well as other important festivals and performances.

Each band member will be placed in a band class based on the number of members applying and the applicant's playing ability. The auditions are held in late spring and late December. The students will be placed in the appropriate class and their schedules will be adjusted accordingly.

Four concerts per year are presented at Chatfield Senior High School and are open to the public. These are wonderful, well-attended concerts in which you will hear challenging music performed at a high level. This is a great time to invite the grandparents, aunts and uncles and let them hear what fabulous music the students can create.

CONTESTS

CBA and CHSAA contests

The CBA Regional and State Concert Band Contests and CHSAA Contests are held in the spring. The concert band(s) 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 and their director have never seen or heard and have approximately 3-5 minutes to talk their way through the piece. They then receive a “one-time-shot” at their performance.) These contests are open to the public. Even though performance times are sometimes inconvenient, parents are encouraged to come hear and applaud the bands.

SOLO AND ENSEMBLE CONTEST

Solo and Ensemble contests are sponsored by the CHSAA (Colorado High School Activity Associations). These contests give the band member and director a good idea of how each member is progressing musically. District Solo and Ensemble contest is usually held on the third Saturday in April. Students will be given plenty of time to prepare a solo or ensemble performance. Students are encouraged to play a solo or ensemble for a rating from a professional adjudicator.

JAZZ ENSEMBLES

JAZZ BANDS

The award winning Jazz bands at CSH are dedicated to the learning of all jazz styles and improvisation techniques.

The CSH Jazz bands meet during the school day. Admission to this group is based on tryout performances. The jazz bands perform at various events in the area and concerts are held throughout each semester. Be sure to mark you calendar for these extraordinary performances.

The CSH Jazz bands also compete at several different jazz festivals around the state. A list of those festivals will be given out when the dates and times are made available to the director.

ALL-COUNTY AND STATE GROUPS

ALL-COUNTY CONCERT BANDS AND JAZZ ENSEMBLES

Individual band members are strongly encouraged to tryout for these bands. Pre-selected tryout music is available to all students during the fall semester. The band tryouts are held in late November/early December.

Students who become All-County musicians perform in the spring at the preselected venue that was stated on their audition material sheet. These wonderful musicians will have the opportunity to perform for their families and friends.

ALL-STATE BAND

Band members who become All-State musicians are highly praised and honored. These students assemble at the University of Northern Colorado in late March. The band is made up of wonderful musicians who represent the top high school band members in the state of Colorado. Advancing to All-State is the highest individual honor a high school musician can achieve.

ALL-STATE JAZZ ENSEMBLE

Jazz band members who become All-State musicians are also highly praised and honored. These students assemble at the Broadmoor Hotel in Colorado Springs in late January to rehearse and perform at the Colorado Music Educators Association convention. The band is made up of wonderful musicians who represent the top high school jazz band members in the state of Colorado. Advancing to All-State is the highest individual honor a high school musician can achieve.

GRADUATION PERFORMANCES

All band members will be expected to perform for the CSH graduation ceremony. It is held at Red Rocks Amphitheatre. Transportation will be provided to and from this event. It is not necessary for parents to attend unless they desire.

SPRING AUDITIONS

The spring semester is a very busy time for all band members. Tryouts for concert bands, jazz ensembles, drum majors, color guard and drum line are all held during this time. Selection of section leaders will also take 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 Chatfield Senior High Marching Band is a volunteer competitive marching band. It explores the latest trends in competitive marching band. The Charger Marching Band is an extra-curricular activity for members at Chatfield Senior High.

GOALS

CSH Charger 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 voluntary into this extra-curricular ensemble; however, an audition is required. The Color Guard and Percussion sections require a specialized audition and are considered a select ensemble of the CSH Marching Charger Band. Potential members that audition will be granted membership based on their performance ability – both musically and visually.

SECTIONS (Horn Line, Guard, Percussion)

Horn Line

The CHS Marching Charger Horn line is selected following the musical and visual audition that takes place in conjunction with the May marching band rehearsal/meeting.

Guard

The Marching Charger Color Guard is a part of the CSH 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

- Color Guard membership is limited to ladies 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 CSH 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 April 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 CHS marching band. Drum Majors audition in areas that demonstrate their skills in leadership, conducting, maturity, musicianship and marching ability. A clinic is held in April to prepare the interested students, followed by an audition.

REHEARSALS

Since the CHS Marching Band is an extra-curricular activity, its rehearsal schedule falls almost entirely outside of the typical school day. Rehearsals are as follows, but not limited to:

- May evening rehearsal: one day after school during the month of May.
- Summer Rehearsal: Sectionals rehearsal will be during June and July.
- Band Camp: Begins approx. 2 weeks before the first day of school for 8 hours per rehearsal day.
- School Day rehearsals: See the Rehearsal calendar for your section for specific dates and times.
- Sectional Rehearsal: An additional rehearsal per week devoted to just the members particular section (i.e. Percussion, Guard, Horn line, etc.).
- Extra Rehearsals: Typically there will be at least one Saturday rehearsal in the months of September and/or October. Occasionally an evening rehearsal is substituted for an after school rehearsal.
- A Detailed calendar with all rehearsal dates and times will be provided to each student that gains membership into the CSH Marching Band as well as posted on the internet at www.CSHBand.org.

AUGUST CAMP (SUMMER BAND CAMP)

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:

- Learning Marching skills
- Learning show music
- Learning drill
- Uniform distribution
- Learning “stand tunes” (music for football games and pep rallies)
- Collection of camp fees and instrument fees
- Purchasing of any accessories that may apply to your specific section
- Lots & lots of bonding between old and new band members.

“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. Our main rehearsal days are Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 2:45-5:30pm.

PERFORMANCES

The CSH marching band performs at halftime of all home varsity football games. The Marching Chargers also perform at all competitive contests and festivals; approx. five contests per season. The format of most contests is a prelim / finals contest. The Marching Chargers also perform various community support appearances based on need and accessibility.

VARSITY FOOTBALL GAMES

Thursdays and Fridays during fall semester become pretty fast paced for the CHS Marching Band. The games are held at the Jeffco Stadium, located at 6th Ave. and Kipling St. Dates and times of the games are located on the marching band calendar.

After school members will need to get dinner and then meet back a school. 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. The band will be transported to and from the football game by school bus.

The buses leave the stadium as soon as possible after each game. If you need to pick up your non-driving band member, they will need to check with the director before leaving the field.

MARCHING BAND CONTESTS

CBA—COLORADO REGIONAL AND STATE MARCHING BAND CHAMPIONSHIP

The Colorado Bandmasters’ Association—CBA—governs the regional and state marching contest. You are probably aware of the fact that schools in the state of Colorado are divided into classes based on student population. Chatfield Senior High School is in “class 5A,” the class for the largest schools.

The CBA sponsored contests (Pomona Festival, Douglas County, etc.) operate in a preliminary/finals competition. The top 8 to 12 highest scoring bands in the preliminary competition will return to perform in the finals competition that night. At the conclusion of the Finals competition, scores and placements are announced for each band as well as “Caption Awards” for High Musical Performance, High Visual Performance, and High General Effect. The Award ceremony concludes with the announcement and score of the winning Marching Band for that event.

CBA REGIONAL MARCHING CONTEST

The CBA Regional Marching contest happens in early October and determines what bands will move directly to the state semifinals, or if they will need to participate in quarterfinals. Quarterfinals normally happen the evening before the semifinals.

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.

TRIPS

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

Band members are usually permitted to bring small coolers, snacks, videos, CD's, blankets, and pillows on the longer bus trips. 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.

MARCHING CHARGERS AWARDS NIGHT

The CSH Marching Band holds an annual awards night in the November. The purpose of the celebration is to reflect upon the year's accomplishments, to honor those who have realized

special achievements. Participation certificates and outstanding achievement awards are also presented at the awards night as well. We strive to make this celebration a special evening for everyone and the format changes slightly from year to year. This special evening brings the marching band together one last time to review the year and wish the seniors a fond farewell to their high school marching career.

UNIFORMS

CSH Marching band uniforms will be issued to most marching band members. Members may be required to purchase uniform parts not owned by the marching band.

Chatfield Senior High School Marching Band has a large stock of uniforms. Uniforms are inventoried, repaired, distributed, collected and cleaned at the end of marching season.

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

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

SPIRITWEAR

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

FEES

Each member's fees are to be paid during registration. In addition to those fees members are responsible for the following:

- **Uniform Accessories:** Each Horn line and Percussion student purchases their uniform shoes, uniform T-shirt, shoes and gloves. These items are ordered as a group to achieve the lowest possible discount pricing to each student.
- **Trip Food:** The members are fed before many performances and at all contests.
- **Color Guard Fees:** Because of the continual evolution of the Color Guard program, it is difficult to foresee exact costs to guard members. However, typical costs include: Performance Shoes, and Specialized Equipment.
- **Percussion Fees:** Typical costs include replacing aging or damaged mallets, drumheads, etc.

PIT ORCHESTRA

The Pit Orchestra is different from the other performing groups at Chatfield Senior High School. The role of the pit orchestra is to support the drama program during their musical productions by providing live accompaniment to the actors onstage. Past productions include Beauty and the Beast, Crazy For You, Anything Goes, Guys and Dolls, and The Music Man. Members of the pit stay after school to practice a few times each week beginning in January and rehearse all the way up to the time of the performance. The musical performance happens at the end of February. Membership in the pit orchestra is by audition or recommendation. The students do not receive a grade for their

participation, but are considered participants in an extra-curricular activity. Prospective members should be proficient musicians with plenty of time to devote to rehearsals and performances.

PRIVATE LESSONS

If you have the desire to become an outstanding musician, please give strong consideration to studying privately with someone who is a specialist on your instrument. Mr. Michaud, Mr. Martin, and Mr. Park know of many professional musicians who have private studios where they offer one-on-one instruction. This is the best way to become the best musician you are capable of.

These professionals can help with:

- improving tone
- expanding your playing range
- increasing technique
- choosing the correct instrument, mouthpiece, or making your own reeds
- preparing for college auditions
- preparing for honors auditions
- finding scholarships, and more.

While Mr. Michaud teaches band at the high school, there are 150+ students to teach. A private instructor can give specialized, individual instruction. Talk with Mr. Michaud to find a teacher who would work well with you. They generally have lessons once a week, or once every other week for about 45 minutes. The fee varies significantly from teacher to teacher.

LOCKERS

Each student will be assigned a locker in the band room/hall. The lockers are numbered and sized for various instruments. Students will be issued padlocks to put on their lockers. Students are expected to keep their lockers tidy and to not store any kind of food or beverages in the lockers

PARENTS GUIDE TO AN EXCELLENT BAND

(from veteran parents to new band parents)

- Get all rehearsals and events on the calendar so that you and your student will remember.
- Help your student be on time to rehearsals and events.
- Help your student be a “team player” by being one yourself. Come to performances and applaud their participation!
- Encourage your student to support their leaders.
- Keep instruments in good repair. It is well worth the investment.
- Keep an extra pair of black socks on hand at all times.
- There are only a couple of parent meetings, please make it a priority to be there. Important information is disseminated. Your student might not bring the information home to you.

- Besides the fee paid to the school for marching band at registration, there are a number of smaller expenses. These are important things for your student’s participation and comfort. If you are unable to pay, let the director know right away so that other arrangements can be made and your student will not feel excluded or singled-out.
- Get your student lightweight pants and shorts to wear under the uniforms. Watch for things that are too long and hang out of the bottom (legs). FYI-Jeans do not work.
- Please try not to schedule doctor/dentist/orthodontist appointments during rehearsals. While emergencies do arise it is difficult when students are missing because their part is important.
- Don’t plan a vacation during September or October. There are things happening just about every day during those two months.
- Let the director know immediately of illness, injury, or emergency absences. Your student leaves a hole in the formation and must be compensated for.