

*Dr. Cuellar Middle
School*

*Advanced
(7&8) Band
Handbook*



2019-2020

Welcome to the beginning of another AMAZING year in band! :)

The purpose of this handbook is to serve as a guide and a source of information for students and parents regarding the Dr. Cuellar Band program. Information, policies and clear expectations allow the teacher, parent and student to work together for the greatest benefit of the student.

Each band student is supplied with a copy of the band handbook at the beginning of the year. It is important that it be shared between parent and student.

By abiding by the following rules, you are fulfilling an obligation to your school, to your fellow band members, to your family, and to yourself. Only when every member of the band puts forth 100% effort can a band achieve its goals in musical achievement and service to school and community.

Please take special notice of the sections dealing with attendance at functions, grading system, uniforms, and important dates.

Please make sure that you sign and turn in the last page of this handbook!

Mrs. O. Aguayo Martinez

Band Director

956.969.6720

THE CUELLAR BAND PROGRAM

The Cuellar band program consists of beginning and performing groups. Beginners are classified as those students who have not previously played in band or who have extremely limited band experience. All students in the performing groups have had the equivalent of at least one year of beginner instruction.

The two concert groups are the Symphonic and Concert Bands. ALL band members can expect to participate in concerts, contests, solo and ensemble contest, and District Honor Band Auditions. Members of the Symphonic Band and Concert Band must maintain passing grades in all classes.

AUDITIONS

Auditions are used as a means of seating band members in the various performing bands according to their playing ability. Auditions will be held in the Spring for the upcoming school year.

The auditions may be divided into several areas:

1. Scales / Rudiments
2. Prepared music (Pep band music, Concert band music, All Region)

Students in each band can and will be promoted or demoted at semester based on performance, reliability, citizenship, academic eligibility and the needs of the total band program.

REHEARSAL AND DAILY PROCEDURES

When class meets:

- Enter the band hall in a courteous and orderly manner. Please walk, do not run.
- Objectives for the rehearsal will be on the board.
- Please be on time.
- No gum, food or drink- ever.
- Concert attention will be observed when the director steps on the podium.
- Cell phones and electronic devices are to be turned off during rehearsal time unless otherwise indicated by the director.
- Leave the band hall neater than when you found it. Arrange the chairs and stands how they were and throw away your trash.
- Be courteous and respectful of your peers, your teachers and the equipment.
- Profanity will not be tolerated.

Please enter the band hall:

- Quickly
- Quietly
- Calmly
- Ready to work and have FUN!

CONSEQUENCES

- One verbal warning
- After school detention / parent phone call
- Parent / Teacher conference
- Parent / Teacher / Administrator conference / Referral
- Removal from the Dr. Cuellar MS band program

GRADES

Grades are earned by the following:

Daily Work and Participation - 70%

Quizzes and Concerts - 30%

ALL STUDENTS NEED THE FOLLOWING FOR CLASS PARTICIPATION AND A PASSING GRADE:

- Working equipment / instrument
- Accessories (reeds, valve oil, cleaning cloths, flip folder, lyre, etc)
- Pencil
- Required music / book

Students will not receive a passing grade without the above materials.

PRACTICE EXPECTATIONS

A half-hour a day is the amount of practice time recommended for the average student. Your child's progress in band will depend a great deal on what they achieved during daily home practice sessions. Learning takes place in school, but proficiency is gained at home.

PERFORMANCE CHARTS

Each Advanced band member will be tested on certain pieces of music and their progress will be recorded on a performance chart located in the band hall. Each student will know exactly what they need to pass off in order to get a grade of a 100 for each of the pieces required. Not only will they need to pass off pieces (pep band, holiday music, spring music), each student will be required to pass off certain scales at specific tempos. The directors will be testing the students and will determine if the student knows the piece/scale well enough to earn a passing sticker on the chart.

SECTIONALS

All members of the Wildcat Band will have at least one weekly sectional. Attendance and participation at these sectionals is a MAJOR part of your grade!

Excused absences will be granted only by the band director after a note from the parent is received before the absence. In the case of unforeseen absences, a note must be presented to the band director upon return to class.

Unexcused absences from sectional rehearsals may affect chair placement as well as grade.

The directors are aware that there will be some conflicts with athletic events or practices that cannot be avoided. It is the student's responsibility to inform the director of any problem well in advance. The band director may need to change the schedule as the need of the band changes. Advance notice of 24 to 72 hours will be given.

After school sectionals start promptly at 3:30 PM and will be over as late as 5:00 PM. Please make arrangements to get picked up ahead of time.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is required for all rehearsal and public performances in the Dr. Cuellar Wildcat Bands. One primary purpose of a band program is the preparation for and participation in public appearances. Most dates for concerts and performances are announced weeks and even months in advance and the majority of our functions are listed in the Wildcat calendar.

Excused absences from public appearance will be granted in cases of genuine emergency only, such as serious illness of the student or death in the family. If a child has an excused absence the student or parents must discuss the reason with the director before the event. Please contact us if such an emergency arises. Jobs, family trips, etc. do not justify absences.

An unexcused absence from any public appearance is very serious and will be dealt with as an individual case. The student will receive a grade of "0" for an unexcused absence.

ELIGIBILITY

The following is from the 2018 – 2019 Dr. Cuellar Middle School Student Code of Conduct (pg 50):

In addition, the following provisions apply to all extracurricular activities:

- A student who receives at the end of a grading period a grade below 70 in any academic class—other than an Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) course; or an honors or dual credit course in English language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, economics, or language other than English—may not participate in extracurricular activities for at least three school weeks.

- A student who receives special education services and who fails to meet the standards in the individualized education program (IEP) may not participate for at least three school weeks.
- An ineligible student may practice or rehearse but may not participate in any competitive activity.
- A student is allowed in a school year up to 10 absences not related to post-district competition, a maximum of 5 absences for post-district competition prior to state, and a maximum of 2 absences for state competition. All extracurricular activities and public performances, whether UIL activities or other activities approved by the board, are subject to these restrictions.
- An absence for participation in an activity that has not been approved will receive an unexcused absence.

EXTRACURRICULAR / UIL DRUG TESTING

In an effort to continue our “Say No to Drugs” campaign, the WISD has put into place a new rule for any student participating in any extracurricular activity/UIL event (such as band). They will need to have a signed Random Drug Testing Parent/Student Consent Form on file. Unfortunately if a parent or student fails to turn this form in on a timely basis the student will be dropped from any and all extracurricular activities that they may be involved in.

REMIND 101

It is very important for me to have constant communication with band parents and students. I have set up a Remind 101 account to get notifications on any changes in our schedule. ALL parents and students must sign up for this service. Each student will need to have a parent consent form submitted in order for me to communicate with them through this remind program.

WEBSITE

I have created a website for the band so that parents, students, and the public may keep track of our concerts, important dates, or even pictures of our bands. The web address is www.cuellarband.com

CONCERT BEHAVIOR

Since performance is a major objective of any band, concert etiquette must be learned and practiced.

1. While in the audience, one should remain seated until the end of the performance. Having people walk around is very distracting to the performers and to other members of the audience.
2. To allow others to enjoy a performance, there should be no talking during a performance.

3. At the end of each selection, the audience should applaud. Shouting or whistling is not acceptable.
4. Hats or caps are not appropriate attire for men at concerts.
5. Please turn OFF all cell phones and electronic devices during a performance or set them to vibrate only.

JAZZ BAND

This year the Dr. Cuellar Band department will be starting a Jazz Band program to help our young musicians excel on their instrument. Jazz Band is a volunteer organization that will meet after school as decided by the membership. A limited instrumentation will be used and will be announced by the director. Students who are selected as member of the Dr. Cuellar Jazz Band must understand that it is important that they make every effort to attend all rehearsals.

SCHOOL OWNED INSTRUMENTS

It is the duty of each student playing a school owned instrument to take the best possible care of it.

Due to a shortage of school owned instruments, some students will be sharing instruments at school. Each student sharing an instrument is responsible for the cleaning and general maintenance of the instrument assigned.

Students using school instruments are responsible for any damage brought about through carelessness. The instrument will be sent to the music store by the director.

INSTRUMENT LOCKERS

Each student (except Percussion and Tubas) will be assigned an instrument locker. These lockers are for the safety of the students' instruments and are not to be used for school books. It is the student's responsibility to keep the locker locked at all times.

Locks must remain locked at all times and the doors must remain closed and latched. Lockers must also remain clean (no trash).

This year each student with an assigned locker must purchase their own dial combination lock (Master Lock). Upon purchase the student must give the director the combination in case an emergency arises and the director must open that student's locker.

FORMAL UNIFORM

All Dr. Cuellar MS Band members (all boys and girls) will need to have:

1. Long sleeved **black** dress shirt, button down with collar
2. **Black** slacks with **black** belt

3. **Black** closed toe dress shoes
4. Long Black socks/hose- no bare ankles or white socks- EVER!

ALL Cuellar Band members will wear this uniform for all performances (concerts) and the Advanced Band members (Symphonic and Concert Bands) will wear this uniform for UIL Concert Contest.

BAND SHIRTS

ALL band members need to get a Dr. Cuellar Wildcat Band shirt. Shirts are \$10.00. This will serve as a casual uniform for the band when not in their formal uniform!

FUNDRAISERS

We are planning to have as least two band fundraisers for the 2019 – 2020 school year. Each student will have their own account where anything that they raise will be added on to their account. The money that is raised will go to their End of the Year Field Trip!

END OF YEAR TRIP

The 7th and 8th grade bands will be taking a one day trip to Corpus Christi to perform and explore the USS Lexington and the Texas State Aquarium. The 6th grade students will be traveling to Main Event in McAllen to celebrate their first year in band. As soon as we have more information, we will inform the parents and students.

BAND CALENDAR

The band calendar for the school year has been set and it is vital to the success of our organization that students and parents are committed to attending all required events and activities. Excused absences from required performances will be granted only in the case of a genuine emergency or illness. Each scenario will be dealt on an individual basis. Please call, email or send a note with plenty of advanced notice whenever possible. Please mark these band dates on your calendars and inform one of the directors immediately of any conflicts. Failure to give advance notice by the above criteria may subject the student to consequences such as: re-examination of band placement or out of band. Band dates are subject to change and advanced notice will be given if that is the case.

HANDBOOK ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

THIS PAGE MUST BE RETURNED BY SEPTEMBER 6, 2019!

PARENT AND STUDENT SIGNATURE ARE REQUIRED

STUDENT NAME: _____

Last Name

First Name

I have read the Dr. Cuellar Wildcat Band Handbook. I realize that it take cooperation from 100% of the band students to make our band a success, and I agree to do my part to help achieve this goal.

STUDENT SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

I have read and discussed the Dr. Cuellar Wildcat Band Handbook with my child. I understand that students need to make arrangement to attend all functions and that they must speak to the band director if there any issues arise.

PARENT SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____