

*Dr. Cuellar Middle  
School*

*Beginner  
Band  
Handbook*



*2019-2020*

Welcome to your first 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.

### **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.

### **AFTER SCHOOL REHEARSALS**

As we get closer to our concert dates the beginner band will need to rehearse together after school. I will let all parents and students know in advance so that accommodations can be made. After school rehearsals will be from 3:30 to 4:30 PM in the Band Hall.

### **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.

### **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](http://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.

### **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 Beginner Band members (all boys and girls) will need to have:

1. Long sleeved **white** 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).

### **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!

### **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 advanced 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 14, 2018!

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 takes 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 arrangements to attend all functions and that they must speak to the band director if there any issues arise.

PARENT SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_