

Ms. Becca Shuman, Director
rshuman@coleman.k12.wi.us

(920) 710-BAND
(920) 710-2263

347 Business 141 N
Coleman, WI 54112

www.colemanbands.weebly.com



High School Band Handbook 2016-2017

Welcome to the Coleman High School Band!

Please take the time to review this handbook with your family. You are responsible for all information in this handbook.

This information can also be found at:

www.colemanbands.weebly.com

Ms. Becca Shuman, Director
Email: rshuman@coleman.k12.wi.us
Phone: (920) 710-BAND / (920) 710-2263

“Music is a gesture of friendship, the strongest there is.”
-Malcolm Arnold

COLEMAN HIGH SCHOOL BAND GOALS

1. Develop a life-long appreciation for music.
 2. Learn about music as it relates to history and culture.
 3. Develop a band environment of **respect, responsibility, kindness, and excellence.**
 4. Learn to read and understand the language of music notation.
 5. Develop rehearsal skills and self-discipline.
 6. Develop performance confidence, poise, etiquette, and instinct.
 7. Play expressively. Play from the heart.
-

CLASSROOM POLICIES AND GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

1. Be on time. Two tardies will result in detention, and three will result in a visit to the principal's office. (See the Coleman MS/HS Student Handbook for more information).
2. Have all materials ready for class. (Instrument fully assembled, music and folder, accessories, and a PENCIL.)
3. No food, candy, gum, or drinks, EXCEPT water.
4. Bathroom and drinking fountain trips should take place during passing time. Only one person at a time will be allowed to leave the band room during class, and s/he must leave their cell phone with the director.
5. Cell phones, tablets, etc. may only be used when the director has given permission. Any other use will result in confiscation for the remainder of class.
6. If you feel sick, forgot your instrument, or cannot otherwise play, ask the director for a "Silent but Present" form.
7. Percussionists are the **only** students permitted in the percussion section and are the **only** students authorized to play percussion equipment. Failure to abide by this policy will result in detention.
8. Each student will be issued a marching band uniform and concert band uniform for which they are responsible. Uniforms must be stored properly after each use -- hung in the correct manner and stored in the appropriate area.
9. Maintain a positive attitude and be mentally present in all rehearsals -- support your teammates!
10. Respect the band room, your instruments, your peers, and your director. **Respect leads to excellence.**

BASICS FOR REHEARSALS (AND LIFE)

1. LISTEN to the music, to each other, to the director.
 2. COMMUNICATE respectfully, efficiently, effectively.
 3. BE KIND. WORK HARD. Work hard at being kind.
 4. BE POSITIVE.
 5. EXPLORE. Be open to new things. Be open to *trying*.
 6. CELEBRATE SUCCESS. Of yourself, of your peers, of the band as a whole.
-

INSTRUMENT EXPECTATIONS

Woodwinds

- If you have not had your personal instrument professionally cleaned and oiled and pad conditions checked, please do so this fall. Students might not reach their full potential on their instruments if the instrument does not function well. See Ms. Shuman about where to get your instrument cleaned.
- Store your instrument in its case with the case locked/latched.
- All reed players are to have at least **three** reeds and must rotate them regularly. **Do not keep your reed on your mouthpiece to store it!** This causes mold and bacteria to grow inside your mouthpiece.
- You must swab out your instrument after every use (especially clarinets and oboes). Failure to swab can help bacteria grow, and can also allow moisture to build up inside the instrument. This can cause your instrument to crack if it's made of wood.
- Make sure you have the proper mouthpiece, ligature, reeds, swabs, and cork grease for your instrument. See Ms. Shuman for supplies.

Brass

- If you have not had your personal instrument professionally cleaned, please do so this fall. Students may not be able to reach their full potential on their instruments if the instrument itself does not function well. Please see Ms. Shuman about where to get your instrument cleaned.
- **Do not place your instrument in its case half-open in your locker.** This can damage valves and slide tubings. Students will be responsible for any damage to their instruments from this practice.
- The band program will supply all mutes needed, although students are encouraged to purchase their own.
- Purchasing a plastic mouthpiece is highly encouraged for outdoor pep bands and marching in cold weather. These are fairly inexpensive (\$25-\$30) and are much easier to play when it's cold outside.

Percussion

- The percussion section can easily become disorganized. Please be personally responsible for the section you perform in and the instruments you play. Failure to do so will result in loss of daily participation points.

ATTENDANCE

Concerts

Concert attendance is **required** of all members of the HS Band. Concerts are the culmination of weeks of preparation, development, and teamwork, and each student is *crucial* to the success of our performances. An unexcused absence from a concert will result in a grade reduction (see the Grading Policy on page 8 for more info). **Work is not an excused absence from concerts.** Clear your work schedule now while there is plenty of time, and notify your employer of concert dates to avoid problems later.

Emergencies do happen, so if an unavoidable conflict arises (illness, family commitments, etc.), please have your parents/guardians call Ms. Shuman at **920-710-2263** as soon as you know about it -- at least 3 weeks before the concert if possible. I will work with you on an individual basis.

If you need transportation to or from a concert, please let the director know! We need you to be at all concerts, and we will find a way to help.

Rehearsals

If you miss rehearsal for an **excused** reason (as listed in the Coleman MS/HS Student Handbook), you will not lose any credit for the day's work, and will be given a reasonable amount of extra time to complete any work assigned while you were absent.

An **unexcused** absence from rehearsal will result in a grade reduction.

Because each player is crucial to the band's success, attendance at all rehearsals is expected. Unlike many other classes, the work missed in a band rehearsal cannot be fully made up. So, when a student misses a rehearsal and the absence is **unexcused**, the student will not receive points for that day's work (5 points per day).

Marching Band

Marching band is required for **all** concert band members. Students are expected to attend all rehearsals, parades, and performances for the marching band. The same grade reductions for an unexcused absence from a rehearsal or performance will apply.

Pep Band

We encourage participation in all pep band events. This promotes a positive attitude and helps to support team spirit in the band and in the school. At the beginning of the year, students will receive a copy of the pep band schedule to give to their parents/guardians and their employers. Each attendance at a pep band will earn the student points toward a band letter. Attendance at all pep band events during the year will make the student eligible for extra credit.

BAND OFFICERS

All members of the HS Band are encouraged to sign up for a Band Officer position. These officers will be elected by the band at the beginning of the year, and will help communicate between the ensemble and the director. They will meet with Ms. Shuman once a month to discuss questions, concerns, and ideas for improving the band as a whole.

President: Open only to seniors. Leads the Band Officers, organizes activities for the band, and works closely with the director to help foster a positive band environment.

Secretary: Open to all grades. Takes attendance for the band at the beginning of all rehearsals. Takes notes at each Band Officers meeting and sends them to the committee and Ms. Shuman. Assists the President with committee activities.

Librarian: Open to all grades. In charge of distributing marching, pep, and concert music to all CHS Band students. Works closely with the director to help organize music library and keep track of all part assignments. Also helps organize activities, communicates questions and concerns, and assists the President with Band Officer activities.

Senior, Junior, Sophomore, and Freshman Class Representatives (one of each): Represent their class. Communicate the needs, questions, and concerns of their class to the rest of the Band Officers and the director.

CONCERT ATTIRE

Each student will be issued a marching band uniform and concert band uniform which will be stored at the school. **It is the student's responsibility to keep these uniforms in professional shape throughout the school year.** Students will be responsible for lost or damaged uniforms. Make sure you have all parts of your uniform (hats, shoes, etc.) before each performance. If there is a problem with your uniform when you receive it, let Ms. Shuman know right away so we can fix it!

Most students choose to wear shorts and a lightweight shirt under their marching uniforms. Please eat and drink before putting on your marching and concert uniforms -- only water is allowed once you are wearing them.

Freshman and new band students will need to purchase a tux shirt (\$16) and white gloves (\$3). All students will need to provide their own black, closed-toe dress shoes and black socks/nylons for marching and concert performances. (Low brass and percussion - you will need to wear your own white shirt and black pants for concert performances.)

Uniforms must be stored properly after each use: hung neatly in the provided garment bags, and stored in the appropriate area.

FUNDRAISING

Each year, the HS Band participates in fundraisers to help the program, or to help students pay for trips. Please be sure to pick up items in the band room on the designated day and make payments on time. It is in your best interest to take care of all fundraising business quickly and efficiently!

STUDENT ACCOUNT INFORMATION

Profits gained from individual fundraising will be placed in that student's personal student account. Students are not allowed to transfer funds between each other, and if a student drops out of the band program, all their fundraising money will be transferred to the general band account since the money was raised for the band. **Please include your student's name in the Memo line of any check you turn in for payment.** Students may see Ms. Shuman to check their account at any time.

INSTRUMENT RENTAL AND STORAGE

Students who need to use a school-owned instrument should see Ms. Shuman at the beginning of the year. These students will need to sign an instrument agreement form, and they'll need to sign out their instrument for the year.

Each student will be issued a band locker/cubby at the beginning of the school year. All students may keep their instruments, folders, and other personal items in their band lockers during the year. However, the band program is **not** responsible for any items lost if they are left out in the band room or in the hallways.

INDIVIDUAL REPAIR

Instruments are investments that need regular care and maintenance. We recommend taking your personal instruments to a professional shop **yearly** for any minor adjustments, and every few years for any major repairs. Some reliable and highly recommended repair shops include:

Heid Music

2605 S. Oneida St.
Green Bay, WI 54304
(920) 498-2228

Instrumental Music

2908 Ontario Rd.
Green Bay, WI 54311
(920) 863-3191

PURCHASE OF ACCESSORIES

Students may purchase accessories for their instrument (reeds, valve oil, etc.) from Ms. Shuman in the band office, or from an area music store. All accessories must be paid for at the time of purchase. If you need financial assistance, please talk to Ms. Shuman privately and we can make alternate arrangements.

MARCHING BAND

The HS Marching Band will perform a halftime show at **Homecoming (October 14, 2016)**, and will march in the **Firemen's Parade (July, 2017 -- date TBA)**.

Marching band is required for **all** concert band members (*Exception: football players do not have to march at Homecoming. Ms. Shuman will announce an alternate plan for football players at the beginning of the year*). Students are expected to attend all rehearsals, parades, and performances for the marching band. We will rehearse mainly during class, but we may have a few before-school rehearsals as we get ready for the Homecoming show.

An **unexcused** absence from a rehearsal will result in loss of participation points, and an **unexcused** absence from a performance will result in a grade reduction (see p. 8 for more info). Please check the calendar for all rehearsal and performance dates, and be sure to inform parents/guardians and employers of the schedule.

Students will receive a marching uniform at the beginning of the year. See the "Concert Attire" section of the handbook for more information.

PEP BAND

Pep band is encouraged for all HS Band students. At the beginning of the year, students will receive a copy of the pep band schedule to give to their parents/guardians and their employers. Each attendance at a pep band will earn the student points toward a band letter. Attendance at all pep band events during the year will earn the student extra credit points.

Students, keep an eye out for a possible **pep band t-shirt design contest**. These shirts, while not required, can then be purchased to be worn at pep band performances to show pride for the band.

EXTRACURRICULAR ENSEMBLES

Students enrolled in band may also choose to sign up for any of our extracurricular ensembles. These include the Jazz Band as well as chamber groups such as a brass quintet, woodwind quintet, and percussion ensemble. Depending on student interest, there may be auditions for the smaller chamber groups. Jazz Band will remain open to all those interested. In addition to valuable performance opportunities and developing new musical skills, students involved in extracurricular ensembles will earn letter points for their participation.

SOLO & ENSEMBLE

All HS Band students will participate in the Solo & Ensemble process. Students may choose to perform a solo or a small group event. You may also choose either to perform at the Festival on **Saturday, April 1, 2017**, or for Ms. Shuman sometime during the week of **March 27-31, 2017**. If you perform at Festival and earn a rating of 3 or higher, you will automatically earn full points for your Solo & Ensemble performance grade. If you choose to perform for Ms. Shuman, your performance will be graded on a rubric similar to those used at the Festival. More information about the Solo & Ensemble process will be provided later in the year.

GRADING

Grading in band may be different than in your other classes. It's based largely on your attitude, preparedness, participation, cooperation, and progress, as these things are vital to your individual growth and to the success of the band. You will also earn substantial points for performances, as we are a performance-based class.

Grades will be earned through a combination of the following:

Performances:

- Concerts (winter and spring): 100 points each
- Homecoming Marching Show: 100 points
- Solo and Ensemble: 100 points
- Veterans' Day and Memorial Day Performances: 100 points each
- Firemen's Parade: 20 points

Rehearsals:

These points can be easily earned by being on time, having all your materials, and contributing positively to each class. Points will be deducted for each negative incident.

- Daily Participation: 5 points each day
- Marching Band Practices (including those before or after school): 5 points each

Additional Assignments:

- Weekly Listenings: 5 points each
- Additional performances as assigned (community performances, etc.)
- Other assignments as given by the director. For example:
 - Scale or playing tests (generally 5-10 points each)
 - Concert Reflections (5 points each)
 - Projects (points will vary)

Extra Credit:

Extra credit forms can be found on the website (www.colemanbands.weebly.com/forms.html) Opportunities for extra credit include:

- Attend a concert (of any genre) in which you are not participating and turn in a short write-up
- Play at every pep band performance for the year
- Find an article in the newspaper or from a **reliable** online source about a musical subject and turn in a write-up
- Listen to an album of any genre and write a review (see Ms. Shuman for instructions)
- Student ideas: bring your idea to Ms. Shuman for approval

**If you ever have questions about your grade in band, PLEASE ASK!
The sooner you ask, the sooner we can figure it out.**

WHY BAND?

Many of you don't have to ask this question, you just *know* the answer.

Others may need some convincing of the power of music. I could *tell* you about it all day, but you will not understand until you *feel* it.

Music has the power to bring students, teachers, families, and communities together. It strengthens listening, supercharges the brain, increases learning potential, and helps people form strong, lasting relationships.

Playing in band opens our eyes and our minds to other cultures and other ways of thinking.

Playing in band teaches us how to be positive, constructive members of a community. How to work toward a common goal, and how to celebrate the success of our peers.

Playing in band is a way to learn about *ourselves*. To explore who we are, and who we can become. To grow into the best possible versions of ourselves: compassionate, bold, expressive, collaborative members of our community and our world.

Playing in band develops more than a musician, it develops a *spirit*. It takes what we already have inside of us and helps us express it, learn from it, and help it flourish.

Music is part of every person. It's a part of life. It's a fundamental part of being *human*. Its power may show itself in different ways, but it is *real*, and it is *life-changing*.

So, why not band?



***“Music can name the unnameable, and
communicate the unknowable.”***

-Leonard Bernstein