

2019-2020

Clairton



Marching

Band

Handbook

## *Welcome to the Clairton Marching Band!*

Because there is a lot of information to learn when joining an organization such as this, I have compiled this handbook containing a list of procedures and requirements for band members and their parents.

Two important goals of being a band member are to learn responsibility and to honor commitments. It is to that end that I ask parents to assist their children in learning how to organize their time effectively and to fulfill the commitment of being a member of the Clairton Marching Band.

Included in the handbook is a tentative schedule for the Marching Band that will also be updated as the season continues. As you can see by the schedule, the band is a busy organization. I do my best to keep the time commitments for the kids reasonable. If you compare our schedule with other bands (especially competitive groups) you will see that I require far less of the students' time than most groups.

New members should pay close attention to the uniform requirements and obligations concerning acquiring the necessary shoes, gloves, shorts and socks for the season. The Personal Health History and Parental Authorization for Treatment forms **must be completed and returned before Band Camp**. I have extra forms in the band room.

If you have a question for the Band Parent Organization, the officers' phone numbers are at the bottom of the page marked WELCOME NEW BAND/HONEYBEAR MEMBERS AND PARENTS. If you have a question or suggestion for me, you can reach me at the school at 412-233-9200 ext. 1214 or email me at [geckled@ccsdbears.org](mailto:geckled@ccsdbears.org). If I am not available, please leave a message and I will reply as soon as possible.

Musically Yours,

*David Geckle*

Band Director

Clairton Education Center

### **Marching Band Summer Schedule for 2019 Events**

June 25 Tuesday	Rehearsal 7pm-9pm Full Band
July 16 Tuesday	Rehearsal 7pm-9pm Full Band
July 30 Tuesday	Rehearsal 7pm-9pm Full Band
August 5-16	Band Camp 8am-4pm Monday – Friday
August 7 Wednesday	Information Day/Kennywood Fall Fantasy

Rehearsals after school every Thursday 3:15-5:30

### **ALL FRIDAY REGULAR SEASON GAMES START AT 7PM**

August 24(Sat.)	Home versus Aliquippa starts 6pm.
August 30	Away game vs. McGuffey
September 6	Away game vs. Greensburg Central Catholic
September 13	Home game vs. Riverview
September 20	Home Game vs. Laurel
September 21(Sat.)	Yough High School Band Festival
September 27	Away game vs. Leechburg
October 5(Sat.)	Away game vs Imani Christian
October 11	Home game vs. West Greene Homecoming
October 18	Away game vs.Springdale
October 25	Home Game vs. Jeannette Senior Night
November 1	WPIAL playoff game
November 8	WPIAL playoff game
November 15/16	WPIAL Finals – Heinz Field
November 22/23	PIAL Quarterfinals
November 29/30	PIAA Semifinals
December 6/7	PIAA championship game - HERSHEY
December 11 Wed	Holiday Concert 7:30pm

## **CLAIRTON MARCHING BAND ATTENDANCE POLICY 2019-2020**

By joining the Marching Band students are making a commitment to the school, band staff, community, other band members and yourself. That commitment includes attendance. Attendance of all members at all scheduled rehearsals and performances is vital to the overall success of the Marching Band. Key elements of drill and ensemble sound, making changes to drill, music and marching technique are virtually impossible when students are absent from rehearsals. The band needs all members at all performances! I ask parents to help students become responsible adults by fulfilling their commitments and arriving on time for all events.

### **Missed Rehearsals**

- Minor Tardiness - time missed will be made up with service to the Band program at a time and place decided by the Director.
- Repeated or Excessive Tardiness - may be treated as an unexcused absence.  
- Student may be temporarily suspended from performances (depends on material missed) Reduction of grade
- Unexcused absence - First offense - letter grade drop, parent contacted.  
- Second offense - letter grade drop, parent contacted  
- Third offense - removal from Band

\*Special note - If a student misses a rehearsal, they will not be permitted to march in that weekend's halftime performances. However, they are still required to attend and participate in all other facets of the performance (i.e. playing in the stands, pre-game, cheering on the team, helping with equipment, etc.) This pertains only if the student is not ill.

### **Missed Performances**

- Tardiness - same as above
- Unexcused Absence - first offense - 2 letter grade drop, 2 detentions  
- second offense - Failing grade and not allowed to perform for the rest of the year.

### **Definitions:**

*Excused Absence* - Court appearances, Death in the immediate family (Bring a note from parent or guardian), Serious illness (Note from doctor), Recognized religious holidays and services, and Family vacation (summer only-does not apply during Band camp).

*Unexcused Absence* - Anything not approved by the Director or administration.  
- Absence without prior notification.

Some situations are unique and understandable and will be addressed on an individual basis. If for some reason there is a conflict, or if the student is sick, please contact the band director as soon as possible. Do not "have a friend" tell me your not coming! Do not wait until after the rehearsal or performance! These will be considered unexcused. Please call me if there are any concerns or questions (412-233-9200 ext. 1214).

David Geckle, Band Director

# UNIFORMS

## Full Winter Uniforms

Instrumentalists will be issued a full uniform. These uniforms are to be kept in the uniform storage room when not in use. They will be dry cleaned periodically. Students are responsible for returning the uniform to the storage room after every performance and hanging them up properly. If there is a problem with your uniform (i.e. a button fell off, it doesn't fit, etc.) bring it to the Band Director's or a Band Parent's attention. Please take care of your uniform; they are expected to last 10 years or more. If you stain a uniform with food you may be responsible for the dry cleaning bill. During the winter, you may wear heavier clothing to keep warm. Anyone caught damaging a uniform intentionally or through neglect will be responsible for the repair or replacement of that uniform. Raincoats will be issued as needed and are also the responsibility of the student. In the near future we will be using gauntlets and over-sized plumes. New procedures will be developed to help cope with these responsibilities.

Students are responsible for purchasing their own shoes, black socks (cover the ankle) and band t-shirt. The first pair of gloves will be issued free of charge. There are specific styles of the gloves and shoes and will be decided by the Band Director. Shoes cost between \$30 and \$40 a pair and gloves cost \$2.50 a pair if they need a replacement. You must have black socks, black shoes, black gloves and Clairton Band T-shirt. Please keep the shoes well polished and free of mud or dirt. If you do not have your socks or gloves, you will be provided a pair (as long as supplies last) and charged \$5 to be taken out of your account, or the student and his/her parents will be billed. Shoes must be purchased before band camp.

When wearing the uniform, students are not allowed to wear the following: Sunglasses, jewelry, heavy make-up, lipstick, colored nail polish, watches, excessive rings, earrings, nose rings, etc. In addition, do not take any part of the uniform off or unzip it in public, unless on hot days the Director gives you permission and everyone is wearing their band T-shirt. Finally, you are not to wear parts of the uniform outside of performances. We don't want Band members or Honeybears wearing parts of the uniform(s) while hanging out with their friends or going shopping.

## Summer Uniforms

Summer Uniforms consist of black socks, black marching shoes, black shorts and the Clairton Band T-shirt. These uniforms are used primarily for summer parades. Honeybears should check with the instructor for all other uniform requirements. **ANY STUDENT THAT IS MISSING PART OF THEIR SUMMER OR WINTER UNIFORM MAY NOT BE ALLOWED TO PERFORM THAT DAY AND THEIR GRADE MAY BE AFFECTED.**

## Assessment of Marching Band Members

One important note for years we go on a trip: any student receiving a failing grade for band in ANY 9 week period of that school year, will not be permitted to go on the trip.

1. **Music**        Students must prepare music in the following ways:  
Correct notes, playing technique, rhythms, dynamics, phrasing, articulations, breathing, watching conductor/drum major, and memorization. Spot checks will be given as necessary.
2. **Marching**     Students must understand and properly execute the following:  
Commands, posture, all turns, roll step, marching in step, backwards march, slides (left and right), cross-stepping (drums), upper body control, and proper placement of instrument for attention, parade rest, playing position, horn pops, etc.
3. **Attitude**      Students are expected to use rehearsal time efficiently and effectively for self-improvement on the items listed above. Students' grades will be affected if they: 'Walk' through drill and/or music, consistently show signs of sloppy playing or marching, are uncaring, indifferent or negative, talk back to parents or staff, refuse to try, whine, show disrespect for authority, do not follow instructions, consistently come back from breaks late, or behave in any manner that is detrimental to the success of the program.
4. **Attendance**    Refer to attendance policy. Students are to be on time and in attendance for all events.
5. **Care of instrument/uniform/equipment**  
Students must demonstrate responsibility in caring for their instrument and uniform(s). Students' grades will be affected for the following reasons: Instrument is not properly cared for (cleaned, lubricated, etc.), instrument is not in working order, music/drill is misplaced, playing on reeds that are constantly cracked or chipped, drumsticks or mallets are broken and not replaced, not following uniform procedures and policies, coming to performances without full or proper uniform, students do not put instruments and uniforms in their proper place.
6. **Care for property of others.**  
Students are expected to play and handle only their instrument. Handling or playing another student's instrument is unsanitary and increases the risk of damage to that instrument. Do not play any instrument that is not your own or has not been issued to you. Any student caught breaking or mistreating another student's instrument will be responsible for all damages, will be disciplined in accordance with school policy and is in jeopardy of being removed from the Band.

## GUIDELINES FOR BAND CAMP AT CLAIRTON EDUCATION CENTER

Band camp is a two-week long intensive practice session to be held at the Clairton Education Center. It is during these weeks that we will be learning the drill for the field show for the 2019 season and learning to play together as a group. All students are expected to memorize their music or routine and be prepared to learn drill for each number. Having your music memorized is essential so that we may work on marching. The success of the Band depends on how well we rehearse. The efficiency of the rehearsal depends on the attitude, conduct and cooperation of the students.

Band students are expected to:

Care about what they look and sound like, try to improve with every practice session, behave so as not to distract others from doing their best, be patient and courteous, strive to be the best they can be.

You must always be aware of the fact that you are an important part of a larger organization and that if you do not do your personal best the organization will not be the best it can be and everyone will suffer.

### **Rehearsal times: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

- Be on time and expect to stay for the entire rehearsal. Parents please do not schedule medical appointments during Band camp.
- Students are not allowed to leave camp for any reason and friends are not allowed to visit during camp.

### **We will be out in the sun and on our feet all day.** Be certain that you follow the suggestions below to insure the safety and health of all students!

- Eat a good breakfast before leaving home every morning.
- Bring a hat; this is important for wind players especially because the sun can damage your lips making it very uncomfortable to play.
- Sunglasses are also advisable. Keep some in your locker for afterschool rehearsals as well. You may want to consider using inexpensive sunglasses for band.
- Every morning will start with a stretch/warm-up. You will be preparing your bodies for that day's physical demands. Everyone is required to participate whether you think it's cool or not.
- Keep sunscreen handy (we recommend sun block S.P.F. 15 or higher). "I have a bad sunburn" is an unacceptable excuse for not participating fully in the entire camp.
- Whenever you get a break, get something to drink (preferably water). It is a good idea to bring your own thermos/water cooler so we will not have a long line at one or two coolers.
- Get a good night's rest every night of Band camp.

### **All students must be dressed appropriately**

- Please wear tennis shoes and socks for comfortable marching.
- No Spandex, short shorts, shorts below the waist, sags, tube tops or bare midriff tops without an over-shirt or cover-up top, obscene or suggestive slogans or quotes, sandal footwear.

### Good Behaviors

- Each student is responsible for maintaining his or her own music, instrument and equipment.
- There will be opportunities for students to work on the music in sectionals. Please use this time wisely to get the individual help you need.
- It is the students' responsibility to learn and memorize their music or routine. Practice over the summer is essential.
- Students must treat all adults and other students with courtesy, respect and civility.
- No public displays of affection (hugging, kissing, etc.)
- Students causing disruption, being defiant or misbehaving may be sent home.

### Removal from the band

- The use or possession of alcohol, drugs, or tobacco is prohibited. Any student under the influence or in the possession of alcohol or drugs will be dismissed from the Band or Honeybears. The proper authorities will be notified.
- The Band Director reserves the right to immediately and permanently dismiss any student from Band performances and submit a failing grade when he feels that their conduct (illegal or otherwise) warrants such dismissal.

It has always been my observation that Band students are a cut above the rest when it comes to behavior, attitude and discipline. I expect everyone's full cooperation to accomplish all of the goals set for this Band Camp and for the rest of the marching season.

## **CELL PHONE/ELECTRONIC DEVICES POLICY**

**Clairton City School District will not accept responsibility for any lost or stolen items. Students are strongly encouraged to keep all electronic devices at home.**

If students bring electronic devices to after school activities, they do so at their own risk. The band staff, band parents and Clairton School District will not be held responsible for missing, damaged, or stolen items. If students need to contact home before or after a rehearsal, they may use the phone in my office. In an emergency, if parents need to contact students during football games or other performances, they may call the band parent officer cell phone numbers which will be provided to you.

I understand that in today's culture everyone has a cell phone. I also understand that parents want to be in contact with their children to make plans for after school and after rehearsals. Unfortunately, many students do not act as maturely as they should and they use their cell phones at inappropriate times: in the stands at football games, during rehearsal, and yes, even during performances. Students are not permitted to use electronic devices during these times. Students caught using these devices at these times will be referred to the principal for disciplinary action and their parents will be notified. Students may be suspended from future band activities.



## General Performance Information

### Home Football Games

All FRIDAY GAMES ARE SCHEDULED TO START AT 7:00 P.M. Eat a good dinner before reporting to the school. Students should be in uniform and ready to march to the field at 6:00p.m. We march to the field with police escort and perform our parade song several times. When we reach the field, stay in formation until you are told to relax. We will perform a pregame show consisting of the Star Spangled Banner and the Clairton High School Alma Mater. We then form a tunnel and play the fight song as the team takes the field.

We leave the stands to warm up shortly before halftime starts (7 minutes left on the clock). If it is a home game, the visiting Band takes the field first. We stand at the back sideline, ready to take the field, quietly watch the other band's performance, and then perform our show. Students can go to the concession stand after the halftime performance. By the end of the third quarter, all food and garbage must be discarded so we can continue performing in the stands.

Dismissal for all Band members will be from the band room. A bus will pick us up at the stadium and return us to the school. This is done for the safety of the students. The Honeybears will be dismissed from the stadium, unless a raincoat was issued. Honeybears are responsible for returning the raincoat to the Band room.

### Away games

The Band Director will tell the students what time they will have to load the buses and leave the school. Please eat a good meal before reporting to the school. Students are permitted to bring snacks on the bus (with driver permission) as long as they clean up after themselves. Do not bring food or drink into the stadium. Honeybears should check with the Honeybear Director for required equipment to put in their bags. The only things allowed in the bags are make-up, uniform, and necessary props. Normal school bus rules apply:

No standing.

No hands or objects out of windows.

No yelling or screaming.

Music players with headphones only are allowed.

Singing is allowed within a reasonable tone (with bus driver's permission).

If we are attending an away game, we do not perform a pre-game show. For halftime, we take the field first, perform our show, then stand in the end zone and watch the other band's performance. All students are expected to respect and encourage members of other bands and the adults that accompany them. As a general rule, students are not permitted to go to the concession stand at away games. The host band usually provides snacks and drinks.

All students are expected to exhibit good sportsmanship regardless of the outcome of the game. At no time should members of the Band make negative or improper remarks directed toward another Band, team or their fans.

### Managers

Managers will be approved by the Band Director and do not have to take Band as a class. The primary job of the manager is to move equipment and help the Band Director and Band Parents in whatever they need. Band managers must follow the same guidelines as the rest of the Band and may be dismissed at any time for inappropriate behavior, unreliability, etc.

### Stand Behavior

All members must keep in mind that we have a job to do during the football game. We are there to support the team and cheer them on to victory. Have fun and enjoy the evening, but it is not a time to meet with friends or family. The Band Director will decide seating. We play the fight song at every touchdown or field goal. **We must be ready to play a fight song or other stand song at a moment's notice, so you must be sitting in your proper section with your instrument ready.** Do not bring food into the stands except with the permission of the band director. Unless instructed by the Band Director, your complete uniform (minus the hat) must stay on and zipped up. You are representing the school in how you look as well as how you act and we must not look sloppy or act in an unprofessional manner while in the stands. All students are expected to exhibit good sportsmanship regardless of the outcome of the game. At no time should members of the Band make negative or improper remarks directed toward another Band, team or their fans. Parents will escort small groups of Band members to the restrooms as needed.

### Pep rallies

Expect to participate in a few pep rallies a year; some coincide with special events like Homecoming and Senior Night. These are normally during school hours. Band and Honeybear members will be called during the last 15 minutes of their 7th period class to retrieve their instruments and assemble in the designated area, usually the gymnasium. The Band performs 1, 2 or 3 numbers (one of which features the Honeybears) for each pep rally. All students must wear their Band shirts at the pep rallies. Honeybears must also wear the agreed upon uniform.

### Firemen's Parade/Labor Day/NAACP Parade/CommUnity Day

The band is sometimes asked to perform at the Labor Day/NAACP parade and also the Firemen's Parade at Clairton Park. The band is the featured group and leads the parade through the park. The parade starts in the morning and is relatively short so kids can spend time with their families. We are also routinely asked to perform for CommUnity Day in September. Band members wear their 'summer' uniform (orange shirt, black shorts, black socks and shoes.)

### Playoff games

We have a very successful football team so you can count on us attending several playoff games every year. All students should make plans to attend every playoff game until championships, which means every Friday night (sometimes Saturday) through the month of December.

### Festivals/Competitions

The band performs in up to two festivals or competitions yearly. These are normally held on Saturday evenings and give parents a great opportunity to see the field show away

from the normal chaos at a football game. We spend the afternoon rehearsing, eat a quick dinner, and then go to the festival. Because of our size, we are usually one of the first groups to perform. After performing, students can change into their street clothes, go to the concession stand, and enjoy watching the other bands perform. At the awards ceremony, we cheer for our upperclassmen as they accept a trophy.

#### Memorial Day

The band traditionally performs for the Clairton Parade and ceremony at the municipal building. All members are expected to stay for the entire event. We are usually done by 12:30 so that everyone can spend the rest of the holiday with their families. Students are required to attend this community event and I hope they leave learning the importance of giving back to the community and honoring our veterans.

# WELCOME NEW BAND/HONEYBEAR MEMBERS AND PARENTS

Mr. David Geckle and the Clairton Band Boosters would like to welcome you to the Clairton Band and Honeybears. The Band Parent Organization meets every month. Please join us for important information on fundraising, travel, performance dates and times, etc.

The basic premise of the organization is to help meet the needs of the band members through fundraising and extra-curricular activities. The Band Parents are also the most efficient method of communication for parents. One of the most important jobs of the organization is to organize chaperones for all events.

The Band Parent Organization is YOUR Organization. We strongly encourage your participation in as many ways as possible to help make the marching band a successful, worthwhile and memorable endeavor for all the students. Please consider chaperoning some events, helping with fundraisers, and even running for an office.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call Mr. Geckle or any one of the Band Booster officers.

Band Director	Mr. David Geckle	412-233-9200 Ext. 1214
President	Dan Moore	412-628-6999rnuthouse@gmail.com
Vice President	Becky Caliara	412-403-9513
Treasurer	Sandy Hennon	412-779-7721hennons558@comcast.net
Secretary	Trina Meachum	412-233-7431

Each band member will have a fundraising account through the band parents. Profits from individual fundraisers will automatically be deposited into these accounts. Parents can use these accounts to make a deposit, pay for band events and pay for the necessary items listed below.

Band members must acquire the following for marching season:

**Orange Band Shirt** - Around \$14. Parents can also purchase these shirts for themselves through the Band Parents.

## **Black Shorts**

**Black Bucks** (shoes) -between \$30.00 - \$45.00 - order through the Band Parents who will order Super Drillmaster shoes in bulk from Polumbo's Inc. (www.bandsbest.com) or similar vendor.

**Black Socks that cover the ankles.**

**Black Gloves** - First pair free, replacement pairs are \$2.50  
Once prices are acquired we will send home an order form.

Honeybears should check with the honeybear instructor for uniform requirements.

## **CHAPERONE RESPONSIBILITIES**

Thank you for volunteering your time to support the kids and the marching band. The best way to show your child this organization is important is to volunteer your time. Below are some general guidelines for all chaperones.

Chaperones are responsible for the following:

1. Help the instructors make sure the students arrive in the required dress with instruments or props.
2. Oversee students with uniforms and/or raincoats.
3. Make sure that plumes, water bottles and other equipment are properly loaded on the bus or van and brought to the stadium.
4. Oversee students' behavior and escort them to and from the restrooms. Report improper behavior to Mr. Geckle.
5. After all football games, oversee the students in properly hanging up their uniforms and returning them to the uniform room.
6. Help individual students with minor problems. We have a very young band and there is almost always minor individual problems.
7. The chaperones are not allowed to smoke in front of the students and it is illegal to smoke on school grounds. If it is necessary for you to smoke you must be away from the view of the students and off school property.
8. Alcohol or drug use is not permitted at any time while chaperoning.

- Band Parents are to be respected at all times!!!
- The Band Director will handle all disciplinary action. The chaperone will first warn students when any inappropriate behavior occurs; the second offense will be reported to the Band Director.
- If a Band Parent asks a student to correct their behavior and the student refuses, the Band Director should be informed at once so proper disciplinary action can take place.
- Chaperones will be treated with respect and chaperones are to treat the students as they would want their own child to be treated.
- Chaperones should not apply your own moral or religious judgements to the students. Hand holding, showing of affection, etc. may be permitted within reason.

## CHAPERONE POLICY

All parents/guardians are asked to chaperone at least one event of your choice. For football games or festivals, we require approximately four chaperones. At the home football games, we also need an additional four people to sell candy/souvenirs.

We understand that parents/guardians have to work and may have other obligations, but we feel that there is enough flexibility in our schedule that everyone should be able to find time for this opportunity. Come out and show your children that you support what they are doing and are proud of them. We understand that many people work evenings and will not be available for football games. We do have other ways for you to get involved.

Please fill out and return the form below. If you have any questions concerning this policy, please contact Mr. Geckle.

STUDENT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

I WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

- |       |                      |
|-------|----------------------|
| _____ | HOME FOOTBALL GAME   |
| _____ | AWAY FOOTBALL GAME   |
| _____ | SELL candy/souvenirs |
| _____ | OTHER                |