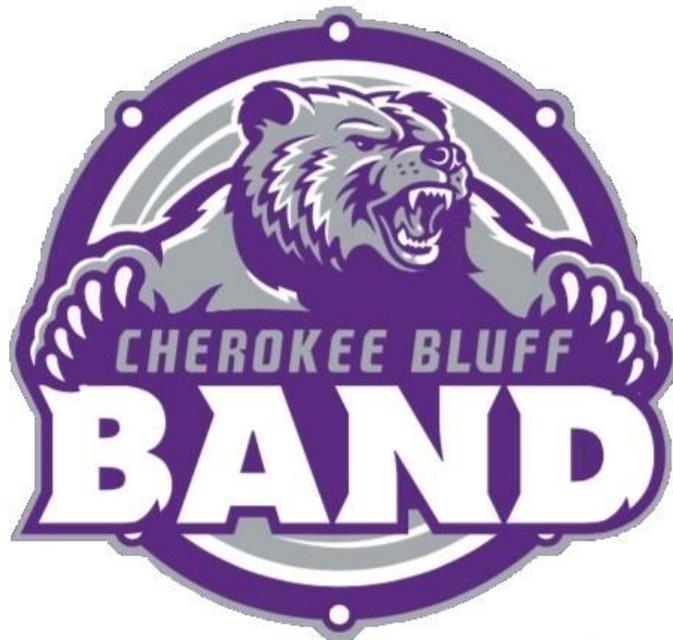


*Cherokee Bluff Middle School Band*



**Band Handbook  
2020-2021**

# Cherokee Bluff Middle School Bands 2020-2021

Geoffrey Lonberger, Director of Bands

Welcome to the Cherokee Bluff Band Family! I am so excited to have the opportunity to teach and share music with you throughout the year, and hopefully years to come. In addition to learning musicianship skills, students will learn about teamwork, discipline, concentration, leadership, responsibility, creativity, and personal achievement through instrumental music.

Band is a fun and rewarding experience. However, it takes a high level of effort and commitment. Each student must be committed to putting in regular individual practice and coming to class prepared in order to learn and improve. Each student should practice a minimum of an hour per week. This responsibility helps the whole band improve and makes the band experience much more enjoyable. The most important thing for parents to do is encourage and support their child by coming to hear them perform at concerts and reminding them to practice at home.

The CBMS Band program will make tremendous strides this year, but we cannot do it without the support of parents and without the effort from students. Always feel free to contact me by email with any questions. It is going to be an exciting year!  
**GO BEARS!**

Thank you for your support,  
Geoffrey Lonberger, CBMS Band Director  
[geoffrey.lonberger@hallco.org](mailto:geoffrey.lonberger@hallco.org)

## Why Music Education?

**MUSIC IS MATH:** It is rhythmically based on the subdivisions of time into fractions which must be done instantaneously.

**MUSIC IS READING:** It involves music reading skills that are processed in a similar method to reading words in a book.

**MUSIC IS SCIENCE:** It is exact and specific and also uses acoustics of wave lengths for tuning. Printed music is a chart and graph indicating pitch, intensity, volume, melody, harmony, and time.

**MUSIC IS HISTORY:** Music usually reflects the environment and time of its creation. It often indicates even national or ethnic mood.

**MUSIC IS FOREIGN LANGUAGE:** Music terms are usually written in Italian, German, or French, not English.

**MUSIC IS PHYSICAL EDUCATION:** It requires fantastic coordination of fingers, hands, arms, lips, facial muscles, back, stomach, chest, and diaphragm, which respond to the sound the ears hear.

**MOST OF ALL, MUSIC IS ART:** It allows a human being to take all of these dry, boring, techniques and use them to create feeling and emotion.

## Course Offerings

### 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Beginning Band:

NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY. Instrument tryouts will occur during the 1<sup>st</sup> week of school. Classes are divided into like instrument groups, which allows for more specialized instruction and increased time on task. The 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Band will perform two concerts this year, a Holiday Concert and Spring Concert.

### 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Band:

The student must have previous experience in band or have had at least one year of private lessons on the instrument they play. The student will continue to learn fundamentals and techniques. They will perform a Holiday Concert, Pre-LGPE Concert, LGPE Concert, Recruiting Concert, and Spring Concert.

## **Concert Uniforms**

Performance/Concert Grades will be dependent upon the student being on time for warm up, with all materials needed, and being in proper uniform (shirt tucked in). If a band member is unable to acquire necessary uniform parts due to financial reasons, the director is to be notified well in advance of the scheduled performance so arrangements can be made to get some.

The performance/concert uniform will consist of the follow items:

1. Black dress shoes (NO TENNIS SHOES, TOELESS SANDALS, OR FLIP FLOPS)
2. Black socks
3. Black dress pants (NO JEANS, SHORTS, SKIRTS, DRESSES)
4. Black dress belt
5. Cherokee Bluff Middle School Band Polo Shirt (Black Band Polo)  
SHIRTS MUST BE TUCKED IN

Gold or Silver ear ring studs and short necklaces are OK; nothing distracting or dangling.

**A SHIRT ORDER FORM WILL BE SENT HOME IN OCTOBER.  
EVERY BAND MEMBER MUST OWN A CBMS BAND POLO SHIRT.**

## **Materials Needed**

1. An instrument in good working order! Please have a name tag on the case.
2. Books: these will be available from Mr. Lonberger for \$8 a piece
  - 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Book: Tradition of Excellence Book #1
  - 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Book: Tradition of Excellence Book #1 and #2
  - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Book: Tradition of Excellence Book #2
3. Band folder given out by Mr. Lonberger
4. Each student must have a pencil at all times (store in case)
5. Folding music stand for practice at home (optional)
6. Accessories:
  - a. Brass Players – valve oil, slide grease, mouthpiece brush, cleaning snake
  - b. Flutes – swab and tuning rod
  - c. Clarinets and Saxes – 3 good reeds, swab, and cork grease
  - d. Percussion – Snare drum sticks (Vic Firth SD1)

## **Band Store at School**

I PREFER THAT ALL SUPPLIES ARE PURCHASED THROUGH THE SCHOOL BAND STORE IF POSSIBLE. I GET A SCHOOL DISCOUNT AND PAY NO TAX SO IT SAVES PARENTS MONEY AND ENSURES STUDENTS ARE GETTING QUALITY SUPPLIES. THE BAND STORE WILL BE OPEN IN THE MORNINGS FROM 7:50AM – 8:10AM.

# **Grading Policy**

## **Participation: 40%**

Each student receives a weekly participation grade. These are based on attendance, having the appropriate materials, and actively participating in class. When absent, students are able to complete and return an absentee practice log to make up for the zero they receive for missing that day of participation. All after school rehearsals will also count as a participation grade.

## **Tests and Pass-offs: 50%**

Playing tests and pass-offs will be done in class and tests will be assigned with ample notice for practice. Chair placements are usually determined by tests.

## **Concerts: 10%**

Every concert or performance will count as a grade.

These are the grading criteria:

1. The student must be on time
2. The student must have all the necessary equipment/music
3. The student must have on the proper uniform attire

\*Excused absences will be based on school guidelines

\*Inability to obtain a ride to the concert is not counted as excused.

Any absence will result in a zero unless a note in writing from a parent/guardian has been submitted and approved by Mr. Lonberger at least two days prior to any performance. Only deaths in the family and sickness will be excused.

# **Instrument Care Tips**

**Always notify Mr. Lonberger any time your instrument is not working properly so he can determine what needs to be fixed.**

1. Never try to pull a stuck mouthpiece or slide with pliers. I have a tool for it.
2. Never store anything besides your instrument in your case...like music books.
3. Exposing an instrument to extreme hot/cold temperatures can damage it.
4. NO WATER on woodwind instruments...it will make the pads fall out.

## **Discipline Procedures**

### **If a student is not prepared for class (instrument, music, pencil):**

- The student will receive a zero for their daily participation grade
- The student will receive a disciplinary essay to copy about responsibility

### **If a student is being disruptive:**

- The student will be given a verbal warning to correct the behavior
- If the problem continues, the student will be asked to pack up and receive a zero for their daily participation grade
- The student will receive a step on the CBMS Behavior Plan
- The student will receive a disciplinary essay to copy

## **Instrument Storage and Security**

1. Have insurance on your instrument. The Music and Arts Center that does our rentals has insurance as an add-on option while renting . Despite the sizable deductibles on homeowners or renters insurance policies, it is still worthwhile to list a musical instrument on your policy. List its value as the total replacement cost or the buy-out cost.
2. Keep a copy of the brand name and serial number of your instrument at home because that is the only positive way to identify an instrument.
3. Make sure the name tag on your instrument case includes your name, address, and phone number.

# **CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT**

It is important for each student and parent to understand that being involved in band is a privilege because students choose to be in it. Failure to follow classroom procedures and instructions may result in removal from band. It is the right of every musician to learn, and the right of the director to teach. I do not anticipate any major problems with our students in the CBMS Band Program. Please read the following rules carefully. The overall school rules apply as well.

## **Personal Conduct Rules:**

1. Always follow directions given by the director the first time asked
2. Raise your hand when you wish to speak and wait to be called upon
3. Show respect to the director, fellow classmates and their property
4. Be seated with instrument, music, and pencil 2 minutes after entering class
5. Never play your instrument unless your director asks you to do so
6. NO FOOD, DRINKS, CANDY, OR GUM is allowed in the band room

## **Equipment Rules:**

1. Do not touch anyone's instrument besides your own
2. Do not play your instrument at the bus stop or on the bus
3. Do not leave music or books on the music stand after class
4. Please respect the music stands by not leaning on them or moving them
5. Keep your instrument in perfect playing condition; notify Mr. Lonberger otherwise
6. INSTRUMENT, MUSIC, AND PENCIL are required for class each day

## **Music Rules:**

1. Always write your name in pencil on the top right-hand corner of your music/books
2. Mark your music with pencil only \*\*\*NO PENS ALLOWED IN BAND
3. Keep your music and books in your band folder provided by Mr. Lonberger
4. Do not keep music in your instrument case unless it has a spot specifically designed to hold music! Doing so can damage your instrument.

# CBMS Band Handbook

## Parent/Student Signature Form

*I have read and understand the contents of the 2020-2021 CBMS Band Handbook and will adhere to all expectations.*

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please use the following websites and social media for more info:

Website:	<a href="http://www.cherokeebluffband.com">www.cherokeebluffband.com</a>
Facebook	Cherokee Bluff Band
Twitter	@CBBands