

Cherokee Bluff High School

Marching Band



Marching Band Handbook

2024-2025

Cherokee Bluff High School

6603 Spout Springs Road
Flowery Branch, GA 30542

Mrs. Denise Ramsey, Principal
Mr. J. Craig Cantrell, Band Director
Mr. Geoffrey Lonberger, Band Director

PREPARING FOR MARCHING SEASON

One crucial element for the success of our students is the preparation that takes place prior to the start of Summer rehearsals. By early May, the band staff has already dedicated numerous hours to preparation. These preparations kick off in June with Percussion and Guard camp, followed by July's Pre-Camp rehearsals and the annual Summer Marching Bears Camp.

Marching Band Participation Policy

- ◆ Students are **required** to be enrolled for a band class to participate in marching band.
- ◆ Guard students who are non-instrumentalists are exempt from band class enrollment.
- ◆ Students who choose to discontinue band classes will not be eligible for marching band.
- ◆ All marching band students, including guard and percussion students, **must** attend band camp.
- ◆ Marching Band requires commitment to rehearsals and performances from July through December.

ATTENDANCE – HALL COUNTY SCHOOLS PROCEDURES

For a successful experience for **all** students, it is crucial that each member attends all rehearsals and performances. An absence from one student affects more than just that individual; it impacts the entire group. The organization thrives when it acts cohesively, especially in intricate drill and musical preparation where a single absence can hinder the entire group. Every member plays a critical role in achieving our maximum potential. Proper planning helps prevent conflicts.

Students may be temporarily excused from school under the following conditions:

- ◆ When personally ill and when attendance in school would endanger their health or the health of others.
- ◆ On special and recognized religious holidays observed by their faith.
- ◆ When mandated by order of governmental agencies (pre-induction physical examination of services in the armed forces or court order).
- ◆ A student may be granted an excused absence, not to exceed, on a day in order to register to vote.
- ◆ Students may be excused from school attendance when prevented from such attendance due to conditions rendering school attendance impossible or hazardous to their health or safety.

If a student is in school, he/she is expected at rehearsal that day!
The mere filing of an absence request does not guarantee an excused absence.
Phone calls must be followed up by the appropriate paperwork.
All follow up is the responsibility of the student/parent.

A full calendar of rehearsals and performances can be found on the band's website: www.cherokeebluffband.com. Each student and parent must sign off an acceptance of the schedule.

Marching Band Required Attendance

- ◆ Attendance at **ALL** practices is **MANDATORY**.
- ◆ For planned absences, students must submit an [Absence Request Form](#).
 - 4 weeks in advance of a performance.
 - 2 weeks in advance of a rehearsal.
 - Requested absences will be considered, and students will be notified in writing of the director's approval or disapproval as quickly as possible.
- ◆ Emergencies (illness, accident, death in the immediate family, etc.) will be handled individually.
 - Note: **A student will be dismissed from the marching band if they exceed the following:**
 - 3 unexcused practice absences
 - 1 unexcused performance absence

***ABSENCES AND TARDIES WILL BE DEALT WITH IN THE FOLLOWING MANNER:**

TARDY	For tardies due to approved school activities, see the director one week in advance to avoid penalization. Otherwise, time-for-time will be enforced.
EXCUSED ABSENCE	An absence will be counted as excused if approval is given in advance and/or the absence falls under school system guidelines for excused absences (see below). No penalty will occur if this criteria is met. *To obtain an excused absence, the following criteria must be met by student/parent: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Director must be notified 2 weeks in advance of a rehearsal. 2. Director must be notified 4 weeks in advance of a performance. 3. <u>ABSENCE REQUEST FORM</u> must be filled out online. 4. Director must approve request.
UNEXCUSED ABSENCE	If arrangements are made in advance and an unavoidable conflict surfaces, a student is allowed one (1) unexcused absence from a rehearsal without penalty: An unexcused absence from a performance or a second unexcused absence from rehearsal will result in immediate loss of lettering eligibility and possible removal from the performing ensemble. <u>Unarranged, unexcused absences, or "no shows," will result in the loss of the ability to earn a letter and possible termination from extra-curricular activities.</u>
CONFLICTS WITH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES	If the conflict is approved by the director before the missed rehearsal, then the absence will be counted as excused. If the director is not given at least a week's notice of the absence, then the unapproved absence will be counted as unexcused.
UNARRANGED, UNEXCUSED ABSENCE	No shows will result in the loss of ability to earn a letter and possible termination from extra-curricular activities.

***Individual needs will be addressed as they occur. This system is subject to modification by the director.**

Once school starts, the weekly marching band schedule is as follows:

MONDAYS:	GUARD & PERCUSSION SECTIONALS (4:00pm - 7:00pm)
TUESDAYS:	FULL BAND (All Students) (4:00pm - 7:00pm)
THURSDAYS:	FULL BAND (All Students) (4:00pm - 7:00pm)
FRIDAYS:	FULL BAND (All Students) (FOOTBALL GAMES - TBA)
SATURDAYS:	SATURDAY COMPETITION DATES: (SEPT. 7, SEPT. 14, SEPT. 28, OCT. 5, Oct. 19)

REQUIRED SUMMER ACTIVITIES

Attendance at all summer activities is mandatory for participation in the Marching Bears.

Primary activities alternate between inside and outside activities. Therefore, rain does not cause cancellations. There is a two-hour break from 11:00am-1:00pm each day so students can rest, go home, or stay at school to relax with a movie in the band room.

Students must have a healthy breakfast prior to arrival and bring a lunch each day. We break for lunch at 11:00am daily, so arrangements can be made for meal drop-off/doordash. Students are not permitted to leave campus during this time.

Rookie Camp (Student Leadership, Percussion, Guard, and Rookies ONLY)

Rookie Camp is designed to help new marchers be successful when full camp begins. Guard and Percussion rehearse during this time as well.

Rookie Camp

July 15 – 16 (8:00am – 4:00pm)

Pre-Band Camp Rehearsals (ALL Students)

Pre-Camp Rehearsals are designed to focus on fundamentals and music preparation for 12-hour days the following week. **Breakfast & Lunch is provided each day in the CBHS Cafeteria.**

Pre-Band Camp Rehearsals

July 17 – 19 (8:00am – 4:00pm)

Marching Bears Band Camp (ALL Students)

Marching Bears Band Camp is an intense week with multiple goals. The students make great progress toward learning the season's production before the school year begins. It is hard work that results in a rewarding experience. The band performs one complete production each season. The marching element is quite intricate, and the music is challenging. During this week, students learn drill/movement, practice/memorize/rehearse music, and combine these elements to create the full production.

Marching Bears Band Camp

July 22 – 26 (8:00am – 8:00pm)

Friends & Family preliminary show debut: Thursday night 7/25 at 6:00pm

What to Bring

REQUIRED items for all band rehearsals:

- ◆ Instrument/Equipment (includes mouthpieces, reeds, oils, mallets, etc.)
- ◆ Band Water Cooler (part of your uniform, provided in band dues), labeled with your name and filled with water.
- ◆ Pencils

Suggested items to make students more comfortable during marching band rehearsals:

- ◆ Light colored, loose fitting clothing (**NO JEANS** or other long pants)
- ◆ Sun screen
- ◆ Hat or visor AND sunglasses
- ◆ Insect repellent
- ◆ Cooling towel
- ◆ Small gym sack/bag
- ◆ Personal cooler with your own additional drinks (Water or sports drinks – **NO SODA!**)
- ◆ **EAT BREAKFAST EVERY MORNING without milk** and DRINK PLENTY OF WATER EACH NIGHT!

Coping with the Summer Heat

The band staff is keenly aware of the challenges that come with July heat in Georgia. Students are given frequent mandatory water breaks, shade breaks, and practice rotations from outdoors and indoors. Fans and misting tents (when needed) are also provided during breaks.

The band has multiple parents with medical expertise, and a parent is always on-site during camps. Volunteers go onto the field if they suspect a student is not well and ask the student to take a break.

Parents: Please make sure your child takes reasonable precautions such as staying hydrated.

Students are required to complete an annual medical form before camp as another level of safety and is a requirement for participation for the entire season. **As per Hall County Schools policies, a heat index monitor will be on the field during all outdoor rehearsals.** Since rehearsals can be inside or outside, rain will not cause a cancellation.

Football Games

The band performs in the stands during each game and performs their production on the field during halftime.

Parents are needed for **ALL** football games!

- ◆ Roadies: Move equipment and props for home and away games.
- ◆ Chaperones:
 - Home Games: Help with before game meal, Free entrance to the game; sit in designated seating with band; help distribute plumes; be a supporting encourager for the students!
 - Away Games: Help with before game meal, Ride bus, free entrance to the game; sit in designated seating with band; help distribute plumes; be a supporting encourager for the students!
- ◆ Concessions: Home games only

Football Game Schedule (2024 Regular Season) (Subject to Change)

- | | | | |
|-----------|--------------------------|-----------|--------------------|
| • Aug 8 | Morgan Co. (Home) | • Sept 27 | Oconee Co. (Away) |
| • Aug 16 | Lumpkin Co. (Home) | • Oct 4 | West Hall (Away) |
| • Aug 23 | Apalachee (Away) | • Oct 11 | Monroe Area (Home) |
| • Aug 30 | North Hall (Home) | • Oct 25 | Jefferson (Away) |
| • Sept 6 | Habersham Central (Away) | • Nov 1 | East Hall (Home) |
| • Sept 13 | Banks Co. (Home) | | |

Students will receive a game day agenda each week that will be shared through “This Week in Band”

HOME GAMES: The Marching Bears makes its stadium entry at approximately 7:00pm for a 7:30pm game. You will want to be in your seats to watch them march inside the stadium and perform. Band parents are encouraged to wear band spirit wear and sit in the section next to the band. Band parents who are not serving as chaperones or working home game concessions are required to purchase an entry ticket to watch the band perform at the football game.

AWAY GAMES: The game agenda will include a departure time and estimated return time to CBS after the game. Most away games are in the North Georgia area. Parents are encouraged to attend away games to support our students (including the football team and cheerleaders). Parents serving as chaperones and equipment crew receive free entrance to games. All band members ride buses to and from away games. **Students are required to stay for the duration of the game. After the game, students may be checked out by their parents only. Parents must personally sign-out directly with Mr. Cantrell or Mr. Lonberger.**

Pre-Game Meals

Pre-Game meals are included in band dues. Additionally, students may purchase concessions during the third quarter break only.

Saturday Competitions

The Cherokee Bluff Marching Bears perform at several competitions each season. For 2024, the competitions dates are: Sept. 7, Sept. 14, Sept. 28, and Oct. 5). The band travels by bus to competitions. Students will receive an itinerary the week before the event. This itinerary includes departure time from CBHS and an estimated return time. **Parent chaperones are needed for all competitions, and this is an excellent way to see other band students from across the state while spending time with other band parents and students.**

MARCHING BAND DUES AND COSTS

Marching Band is classified as a co-curricular activity meaning that while it is designed to enhance and enrich the educational experience received in the classroom, it is a program that receives very little financial support from the school district. The funds to operate a marching band are considerable and are raised through fundraising efforts organized by the Cherokee Bluff Band Association (CBBA) and through collection of student dues. Dues are listed below along with what you can expect for incidental expenses throughout the season. Marching Band dues are expected to be paid in full by the beginning of summer rehearsals. Outstanding dues after band camp will result in limitations in participation, including, but not limited, to performance responsibilities, inability to travel to away games, or removal from the marching band portion of the program.

Your dues include the cost of summer band camp, uniforms, pregame meals, transportation to games and competitions, awards, music, props, equipment, bookkeeping, competition fees, supplemental instruction, administrative expenses, maintenance and repairs, and more. All stakeholders are welcome to survey the budget at any time to see how these fees are used to operate the marching band program.

Marching Band Registration requires a \$250 non-refundable deposit, which goes towards your dues and must be paid by May 15, 2024 to reserve a role in the production. We require all dues to be paid by the beginning of summer rehearsals, July 17, 2024. We recommend making payments on May 15th and July 17th. You may also choose to pay the full cost of membership upon registration.

Woodwind, Brass, or Percussion students	*\$450
Color Guard students	*\$650
<i>*All parents/guardians are required to work two (2) Home Football Game Concessions. More information can be found below in the Parent/Guardian Commitment Section.</i>	

Marching Band incidentals:

*Letterman Jacket (\$200-\$400)

Replacement Marching Shoes (\$45)

Replacement Water Jug (\$20)

Additional/Replacement Show Shirt (\$20)

Additional/Replacement Dry Fit (\$20)

Replacement Guard Bags (\$65)

Replacement Guard Shoes (\$45)

Marching Band Gloves (\$5)

Socks (\$5)

Spending money for:

- Away Game concessions
- Meals on Competition Days
- Spirit Items (Gold Out Game, Homecoming, Senior Night, etc.)

FUNDRAISING

Fundraisers are conducted to raise the additional funds required to fulfill the operation of the band's budget. All parents and students in all areas of the band program are expected to participate in order to maximize the efforts to fund the band program. Participation includes working in the concession stands for two varsity football games and our annual Fall cookie dough/cheesecake fundraiser. Please contact Mr. Cantrell or Mr. Lonberger if you have any questions regarding our fundraising projects

All revenue from fundraisers are deposited to the band's general operating fund based on current interpretation of the IRS regulations as they apply to 501(c)(3) organizations and may not be applied to individual student accounts.

There will be opportunities for families to participate in fundraising that are specifically used to help with dues and expenses.

DONATIONS

Donations may be accepted for individual students toward their dues, outstanding balances, or special trips. Any donation received toward a student's account must be explicitly listed as such at the time of receipt. As with any payment method toward dues, these dues are NOT tax deductible.

UNIFORMS

Brass, Woodwind, and Percussion Performers

Instrumentalists will be measured for marching uniforms at summer band camp. The fitting process will require about 15 to 30 minutes of your time. It is recommended to wear a t-shirt and gym shorts under the marching uniform during fitting day to ensure a proper fit. We will offer shoe sizing for students who need to buy marching shoes. It is recommended to wear long black cotton socks when trying on marching shoes to ensure a proper fit.

Instrumentalists will wear the official uniform of the Cherokee Bluff Marching Bears, which consists of:

- ◆ Jacket
- ◆ Bibbers (pants)
- ◆ Shako (hat)
- ◆ Plumes (inserts into shako, only worn for performances, not in the stands)
- ◆ Gloves (purchased by students)
- ◆ MTX Marching Shoes (purchased by students)

Instrumentalists should wear the following the following underneath their uniform:

- ◆ Gym shorts (warm weather)
- ◆ Black DriFit Shirt (provided from dues)
- ◆ Black LONG Cotton socks
- ◆ Black long johns/under armor (cold weather)

Uniforms, including jacket, bibbers, shako, and plume, belong to Cherokee Bluff High School. Uniforms are to be kept at school and stored in the designated uniform closet. One set of gloves are provided, and additional/replacement gloves must be purchased by the student. Students are required to provide their own LONG black socks. Extra socks and gloves can be purchased by students prior to uniform inspection.

Uniforms are cleaned professional through a Dry-Cleaning service (this service is covered by dues). Uniform repairs are conducted by the uniform committee. Students and parents should inform members of the uniform committee if a repair is needed. **ALTERATIONS/MODIFICATIONS ARE STRICTLY PROHIBITED. NEVER ATTEMPT TO ALTER THE UNIFORM IN ANY WAY.**

Color Guard Performers

Color Guard uniforms are purchased by individual students through band dues. Guard students will be fitted for uniforms following Spring auditions. Performance attire must be kept in the designated uniform room. The uniform committee will clean these outfits as necessary. Students must be in full uniform to participate in a performance.

Band dues cover various components of the Guard uniform, such as:

- ◆ Performance costume
- ◆ Gloves
- ◆ Show shirt
- ◆ Equipment Bag
- ◆ DriFit/Show Shirts

In addition to the uniform, Color Guard students must cover the cost of any replacement uniform items due to loss, damage, wear and tear or improper upkeep. Makeup, hair, and undergarments/hosiery are to be purchased by the student in the style dictated by the directors and/or student leadership.

Items purchased by Color Guard students:

- ◆ Shoes
- ◆ Backpack
- ◆ Jacket/Warmups
- ◆ Makeup and/or hair accessories
- ◆ Two (2) pairs of nude colored support hose/tights (sheer to the waist)

Inclement Weather Uniform (All Performers):

Depending on weather and the timing of the weather, the directors may find it necessary to call for students to wear a rain uniform. This announcement would be made before the end of school on the day of the performance so that students would know how to arrive dressed for in-seat time. The rain uniform will consist of blue jeans, band t-shirt, and tennis shoes. If students plan to remain after school until report time, we suggest that if rain is predicted, students come to school prepared with rain uniform items.

WEARING OF THE UNIFORM

1. Wear the uniform jacket zipped all the way up or take it completely off. Pants and shoulder straps should be worn all the way up.
2. Never leave uniform lying around. Hang it up or wear it.
3. All winds and percussion students must wear the purple DriFit shirt underneath the jacket unless specified by the director. If show shirts are worn, you must wear the current year's band shirt. Long-sleeve undershirts are allowed in black, white, purple, or gray (school colors), as long as the fitting is completely under the uniform. Taking preliminary precautions for cold weather is advised before covering the uniform.
4. All ball caps (when worn as directed by the directors) must be worn properly with the bill of the cap facing forward. Students should never flip the cap backwards while in uniform.
5. Shakos (hats) should be carried upright when not being worn and not carried like a bucket. Carefully place your shako upright when not on your head or in the storage box.
6. Always treat your instrument and uniform with pride and respect.
7. Students are permitted to wear band spirit wear in the stands on Friday nights. Guard members can wear band jackets, "band hoodies" or approved auxiliary clothing in the stands due to the nature of their uniforms.
8. Uniforms will be checked, as described in band class, for proper storage in the uniform bag. Penalty for improper storage will be assessed by the directors.
9. Uniforms on the bus can include no jacket, but the shoulder straps must be on the shoulder. Pants should never be taken completely off. Whatever the chaperones say to do is the law, even if it differs from this.
10. Guard members may wear either the band shirt or guard section shirt, as specified by the guard director.

REQUIREMENTS TO PASS UNIFORM INSPECTION

- A. WOODWINDS, BRASS, PERCUSSION – all uniform numbers MUST be memorized.
1. Black socks that are at least to mid-calf. NO ANKLE SOCKS. We must not see skin on your leg when you sit.
 2. Clean, non-wrinkled uniform and no missing pieces.
 3. Clean shoes (must be band shoes unless approved by the Director)
 4. Clean, smudge free shako brim. Black berets for sousaphone players.
 5. Must be able to identify shako, ball cap, jacket, gauntlets, bibbers (pants) and any other part. It is highly recommended that members label non-numbered items.
 6. Clean band wicking shirt (or show shirt as determined by the directors).
 7. Hair must be worn in such a manner as not to touch collar of uniform with hat on. Any item used in the hair must be purple, white or match the natural hair color.
 8. Hair bows that are black, clear, or matching hair color may be worn. Hair may be worn down in the stands. GENTLEMEN must wear their hair off their collars- no exceptions.
 9. Instrument must be clean, functional and in good playing condition.
 10. Students who are late to inspection should be inspected by the appropriate person ASAP after their arrival. It is the student's responsibility to see to this.
 11. Jewelry should be small, unobtrusive, and tasteful. Ear studs must be black, silver, purple or clear. Piercings other than an ear piercing will be reviewed by the directors as to appropriateness.
 12. Nail polish should not attract attention. The key is to be uniform.
 13. White gloves (when determined by the directors).
 14. If you choose to carry anything into the stadium, it can only be done in your band bag.
 15. Tattoos are highly discouraged but must be covered if they are visible.
 16. Makeup- this must be in natural/skin-colored tones. No wild colors, glitter, sequins, etc.
- B. COLOR GUARD
1. Clean and wrinkle-free uniform that is hemmed properly.
 2. Black socks or body tights- no footie socks.
 3. Black or tan guard shoes as mandated by the director.
 4. Makeup, jewelry, and hair requirements will change depending on the theme of the show and all must match.
 5. Equipment must be clean and in performance condition.
 6. No jewelry other than an ear studs. See above rule number 11.
 7. Pants must be hemmed by the first game, and this is the member's responsibility.
 8. 9. Tattoos are highly discouraged but must be covered if they are visible.

UNIFORM INSPECTIONS ON FRIDAY NIGHT GAMES AND COMPETITIONS

The Drum Major(s) will inspect the leadership members. Then, the section leaders will inspect the students. Section leaders report to the Secretary.

Failing inspection on Friday night and/or competitions performances will result in loss of third quarter break for each offense. Chronic inspection failures will result in additional disciplinary actions, including dismissal from the group.

PENALTIES FOR IRRESPONSIBILITY

1. If a student lacks any part of his uniform or equipment at the time of inspection, the first offense will result in the loss of their third quarter break. After the second offense, the student will lose the third quarter break for the rest of the season. If a student needs any part of the uniform, they should see a uniform chaperone or the uniform manager at least thirty minutes prior to inspection. Gloves, socks, and ball caps may be bought, and shoes, ball caps, etc. may be borrowed; however, the student who borrows items must still lose their third quarter break (except for those who buy items in advance of the deadline time).
2. If a student is improperly dressed while required to be in full or partial uniform, they will lose third quarter break.

3. If a student leaves any part of his uniform or equipment unattended after a game, performance, trip, or other event, they will be given severe consequences at the next rehearsal.
4. Lost items must be replaced so the cost of the new item will be assessed.

INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURES

Practices regarding inclement weather:

Based on the current and predicted weather conditions we will decide if it is realistic for the band to practice. If heavy rain is constant, the band will rehearse indoors at the high school. Should weather prevent the band from practice (thunder/lightning/etc.), there will be an announcement made through text alerts (Remind), emails (Cut Time), and the band website (www.cherokeebuffband.com). If you are unsure about reporting to rehearsal, call the band room (770-967-0080 ext. 13252).

Home Football Games regarding inclement weather:

Students will report at the assigned time regardless of weather conditions. Roll will be called, and absences and points will be recorded. If the weather allows, the band will participate in all game and halftime activities. If conditions are potentially damaging, students will either be held in the band room or bus until halftime in the hopes that conditions will improve or a “**RAIN BAND**” will be called. This means that students will be asked to volunteer their time to perform (brass and percussion) or to cheer in the band section (woodwinds and auxiliaries). All other students will be dismissed before the Rain Band reports to the stadium. Students in Rain Band will not wear band uniforms, but all regular game procedures will be followed. *Students not participating in Rain Band will have to pay to get into the stadium if they stay for the game.*

Away Football Games regarding inclement weather:

Based on the current and predicted weather conditions we will decide if it is realistic for the band to load and travel to the game location. If we feel there is a chance that weather will improve enough for students to participate, we will travel. However, if inclement weather seems inevitable, it is in the best interest of our students not to sit on buses in the parking lot for several hours trying to wait out the weather.

FOOTBALL GAME/COMPETITIONS/PERFORMANCE PROCEDURES

PRE-GAME PREPARATION

- ◆ The Call Time for each performance will be announced and published prior to arrival. Students should strive to arrive in plenty of time. Early is One Time, On Time is Late, and Late is Unacceptable.
- ◆ Before games or competitions, students should check and load their own equipment upon arrival to the band room. *You are responsible for loading your own equipment!*
- ◆ Students who arrive with food and drinks must dispose all before entering the band room. Students can finish meals in the hallway, but NO FOOD OR DRINKS ARE ALLOWED IN THE BAND ROOM.
- ◆ After loading your equipment, you should retrieve your uniform from the uniform manger or uniform chaperones.
- ◆ As the weather gets cooler, long-sleeve undershirts may be worn as long as they are school colors and fit completely underneath the uniform, out of sight.
- ◆ Before covering your uniform with a jacket or coat, you should take preliminary precautions for cold weather (for instance, thermal underwear or sweatpants/sweatshirt). *Borrowing parts to pass inspection is considered to be failing inspection and no third quarter break will be granted.*
- ◆ Please sit in your section or area and do not play on your instrument, as there are several announcements and information that will be made and all students, chaperones, and directors should be able to hear. Be respectful to your peers, chaperones, and directors during this time.

ARRIVAL AT GAMES AND BUS CAPTAINS

- ◆ Bus captains are appointed at the beginning of the season will coordinate responsibilities.
- ◆ The equipment crew, percussionists, and sousaphones will exit the bus in full uniform and unload the trailers upon the director's orders.
- ◆ Students will exit the bus in full uniform and line up to file into the stadium.
- ◆ All students are expected to carry their belongings in an approved bag and stay in their sections while following instructions.
- ◆ ***Everyone is to remain in their section and to follow the instructions of those in charge.*** Precautions need to be taken to see that instruments are taken care of. Section leaders should appoint someone to handle placement of instrument cases.
- ◆ The band will be seated in a block. **NON-BAND MEMBERS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED IN THE BAND SECTION.** Chaperones will be near the band section should they be needed.

CONDUCT IN THE STANDS – HOME AND AWAY GAMES

1. Stay in your sections. DO NOT move around the band set. This causes problems with playing and broken instruments.
2. You are a member of the band. Do not do things that bring attention to you as an individual.
3. No visitors in the band set (unless granted permission by the directors, as alumni of the band program may be granted permission to sit/play in the stands).
4. Play only as directed by the Drum Major(s), Directors, or Drum Captain.
5. Be attentive and follow instructions of Drum Major(s) and/or Directors.
6. Play only your written part.
7. Playing in the stands is considered part of the performance. Everyone is expected to participate fully. Anything the band is doing in terms of dancing and support should be done by all. All students WILL STAND during the game if they have an instrument.
8. Cell phones should not interfere with ANY aspect of performance, including the stands.

THIRD QUARTER BREAK

Unless directed otherwise, the third quarter is designated for a break. Consumption of food and drink is allowed only during this break. Chaperones and student leaders will start rounding up students with four minutes left in the third quarter. **ALL STUDENTS MUST ARRIVE BACK TO THE STANDS AND BE READY TO PLAY WITH TWO MINUTES LEFT IN THE THIRD QUARTER.**

Students late reporting from third quarter break (or late from the Call Time of the performance) may forfeit the third quarter break at the next game.

Students missing the third quarter break may have food or drinks brought to them but should maintain silence during the missed break.

LOSS OF THIRD QUARTER BREAK

If a student is punished for any infraction of the handbook by the loss of third quarter break, the punishment will be carried out thusly:

1. The student will remain in the stands during the third quarter of the football game and not go to the concession stand. The student will sit near the front of the band set near the director. Talking to others will not be permitted and students should have their music folder with them to review music.
2. Students serving for a loss of third quarter break may have other students or parents bring them food and drink from the concession stand. Bathroom breaks will be allowed as well. After refreshments are delivered, students should be left alone. Missing the break is not a time to socialize.
3. No cell phones or other electronic devices are allowed during this time. Read and review your music in your music folder.
4. Failure to serve for loss of third quarter break will result in the loss of third quarter breaks for the rest of the season and a parent conference with the directors about the students' future in the band program.

POST-GAME PROCEDURES

- ◆ After the game, the band will either move to the buses (for Away games) or the band room (for Home games).
- ◆ The equipment crew, percussionists, and sousaphones should assist in the loading of equipment at this time. All other students should remain on the bus.
- ◆ **If a student wishes to be checked out after a game or performance with his/her family, he/she must present a written statement or email to the director preferably prior to departure to the game. These students are required to check out with both the director and head chaperone before leaving. The person with whom they are riding should meet the student at the buses. The person you go home should be documented in the written statement and must be the parent, guardian, or an adult acceptable to the directors.**

MEANS OF COMMUNICATION

There are many moving pieces in a marching band program. From July through December, we organize a wide range of activities, including band camp, rehearsals, football games, concessions, parades, competitions, fundraisers, meals, equipment transportation, and more. All members of the band family can be kept informed and linked through the various channels of communication that have been established to ensure the smooth operation of our activities. We strive to ensure that all channels are kept up to date with the consistent information, but occasionally, changes occur at the last minute. It is recommended that our members make consistent use of these communication options during the season will ensure that you do not miss a thing:

- ◆ Band Calendar on www.cherokeebuffband.com
- ◆ “This Week in Band” – our weekly email that lists the events and happenings of each week.
- ◆ Email – we use the information provided at registration, so please make sure it’s the best way to contact you.
- ◆ Facebook (Cherokee Bluff Band Parents Association – CBBA) – This is a private group. Please join at the beginning of the season. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/249339559686373>
- ◆ Remind: **Class Name:** Cherokee Bluff Marching Bears 2425 **Class Code:** @CBMB2425

VARSITY LETTERING

A Varsity Letter is available for eligible students who earn it. At the conclusion of each academic year, in May, we have an awards ceremony, in conjunction with our Spring Concert, where letters are presented. Any band dues still open in May from the previous school year will activate an administrative hold on receiving a letter or award at the ceremony until the balance is paid.

EXTRACURRICULAR OVERNIGHT TRAVEL

Being a distinguished band program, we have the opportunity to travel at various points throughout the year. One of the band’s most common travel times is in the Spring. This trip may or may not include a performance opportunity and will be presented as each trip is made available. These trips provide a great chance for students to connect and celebrate the achievements of the season.

Conditions for Trip Eligibility:

- ◆ All high school band students (concert and marching), members of the Color Guard, and 8th graders who marched at least one season are eligible to travel.
- ◆ All band dues must be current before registering for any trip.
- ◆ Student remains in good disciplinary standing. Violation of school rules, local, state and/or federal law, suspension and expulsion leading up to and during the trip will result in immediate removal from the trip with no reimbursement.
- ◆ All deposits paid to initiate booking travel with the band are non-refundable.
- ◆ Failure to pay your trip payments by payment plan due dates may result in forfeiture of your spot without reimbursement for any monies paid to date. Paying on time is vital as we are subject to hard deadlines regarding tickets, hotels, flights, etc.

PARTICIPATION AND FINANCIAL COMMITMENT

Students:

I understand that I am committing to being part of a group that demands high performance and behavior standards. I am dedicating my time, energy, and focus to this organization. I am committed to always giving my best efforts, prioritizing practice, and understanding the importance of rehearsals for the ensemble. Being part of the Cherokee Bluff High School Marching Bears, I commit to attending all rehearsals and performances unless there is a family emergency. I hold myself to a high standard, ensuring I display maturity and good character daily. I am involved in an organization where others depend on me, and I hold myself to the highest standards.

Parent/Guardian:

- ◆ I understand that there is a financial commitment of
 - \$450 for the 2024-2025 season associated with each member of the marching band (woodwinds, brass, percussion, or any other instrumentalist), along with the commitment of working concessions for two (2) Home Football Games.
 - \$650 for the 2024-2025 season associated with each member of the Color Guard section, along with working concessions for two (2) Home Football Games.
 - \$100 for the 2024-2025 School Instrument Rental Fee for students to use school-owned instruments. This includes, but is not limited to: Percussion, Sousaphone/Tuba, Baritone/Euphonium, Mellophone/French Horn, Tenor Sax, Baritone Sax, Front Ensemble, etc.
 - Additional \$20 DryFit, \$45 Band Shoes, \$15 Water Jug if necessary for replacement to all veteran/returning marching band members.
- ◆ I understand that all past band financial commitments must be paid in full prior to registration for a new season. Open balances will prevent participation.
- ◆ I understand that all 2024-2025 band dues must be paid in full by the beginning of Summer Band Camp 7/15. Open balances after Band Camp will prevent participation, including traveling to Away games, limited participation in senior activities, alternate performance responsibilities for the production, and possibly termination of membership in the marching band.
- ◆ The CBBA offers a payment schedule, and I will adhere to the recommended payment dates: May 24th and July 15th.
- ◆ I understand that if the band travels overnight, my student can only participate if they are up-to-date on their band dues payments and that I have fulfilled my commitment in working concessions for two (2) Home Football Games.
- ◆ I understand that should my child's participation in this program end, whether by their choice, my choice, or as a result of a violation of marching band policy or disciplinary action, there is no refund or reimbursement for paid program fees and dues. Due to IRS tax regulations, all money paid to the CBBA is non-refundable.
- ◆ I understand and commit to working concessions for two (2) Home Football Games. Failure to meet this commitment will result in loss of eligibility from varsity lettering and any spring travel/extracurricular trips.

COMMITMENT DATES

Please clear your calendar for the following dates:

Rehearsals:

- June 24 – June 28 Guard and Percussion Camp (7:30am – 4:30pm)
- July 15 – July 16 Rookie Camp (7:30am – 4:30pm)
(Student Leadership, Percussion, Guard, and Rookies ONLY)
- July 17 – July 19 Pre-Band Camp Rehearsals (7:30am – 4:30pm)
(All Students)
- July 22 – July 26 Marching Bears Band Camp (7:30am – 8:00pm)
(All Students)
- Weekly Rehearsals Mondays: Guard and Percussion Sections (4:00pm – 7:00pm)
Tuesdays: Full Band (All Students) (4:00pm – 7:00pm)
Thursdays: Full Band (All Students) (4:00pm – 7:00pm)
(please refer to the band calendar on cherokeebluffband.com)

Football Games:

- Home Games Aug. 8, Aug. 16, Aug. 30, Sept. 13, Oct. 11, and Nov. 1
- Away Games Aug. 23, Sept. 6, Sept. 27, Oct. 4, Oct. 25
- Playoff Games TBD – required once announced

Saturday Competitions, Exhibitions, Mini-Camps, and Parades:

- Sat. Sept. 7 Marching Bears Mini-Camp (8:00am – 5:00pm)
- Sat. Sept. 14 Competition 1 (Denmark HS) (All Day)
- Mon. Sept. 23 Hall County Marching Band Exhibition (West Hall)
- Sat. Sept. 28 Competition 2 (Armuchee HS) (All Day)
- Sat. Oct. 5 Competition 3 (Flowery Branch HS) (All Day)
- Sat. Nov. 23 Flowery Branch Christmas Parade (TBA)
- Sat. Dec. 7 Gainesville Christmas Parade (TBA)

Spring Trip:

- March 27, 2025 – March 30, 2025 TBA