

CHESTATEE HIGH SCHOOL

WAR EAGLE BAND



HANDBOOK 2023-2024

Welcome to the Chestatee High School War Eagle Band! As Director of Bands, I would like to personally welcome you to the Chestatee High School band program and cannot wait to meet you, get to know you, and share the wonderful gift of music with you. Here at Chestatee, we strive to follow the 3 C's of Character, Courage, and Commitment. As part of the Chestatee Band and Chestatee High School, I firmly believe that with the right mindset we can achieve greatness in all our endeavors!

The Chestatee band program has two main purposes. Purpose number one: To support the school as the largest unit of school spirit in any activity. As the largest group of school spirit, we must represent our school to the utmost at all times. It is our goal as a band to generate school spirit at all athletic and school events and entertain audiences with EVERY performance that we do. This includes everything from pep rallies and pre and post-game festivities to stand and half-time performances. Purpose number two: To allow students to explore their talent in a safe and positive atmosphere while being challenged to achieve excellence at the highest levels. Being involved in the Chestatee band program means that you are accepting the tradition of excellence that exists at Chestatee and that you are committed to continuing the same. Students involved in the band program will have every opportunity to explore their musical talents and gifts and as you leave Chestatee, you should feel that you received everything you needed to accomplish your goals and that you are prepared for any future endeavor you might encounter, musical or not. I firmly believe that the success of this program is not measured by the achievements of the director, but by the achievements of the students during and after high school.

Again, I would like to say welcome to Chestatee High School, and the Chestatee War Eagle Band. I hope you have a great experience and GO WAR EAGLES!

Musically,

Matt Young - Director of Bands

Mission Statement

The mission of the Chestatee High School band program is to promote the advancement of the Chestatee High School Band by offering a fun and educational experience to its students, teaching sound, quality instruction, and building the next generation of leaders in the community through participation in the Chestatee High School band.

Motto

F.I.E.L.D

The Chestatee War Eagle Band believes in achieving the highest level of excellence in everything we do. In order to achieve this standard we will follow the above motto. “See you on the F.I.E.L.D” This acronym of Family, Integrity, Excellence, Loyalty, Discipline are the five core values that are the foundation of the Chestatee High School Band. We believe that putting these five core values first in everything we do, it will translate into better experiences and the best results possible.

Code of Ethics

1. I will respect my fellow students and band mates and also respect myself. I will treat others as I wish to be treated.
2. I realize my rights go only as far as another person’s rights begin.
3. I will show respect for my Director of Bands, other teachers, and administrators, not only for who they are, but also for what they represent in the educational process and the school.
4. I will work to ensure that Chestatee High School and the Chestatee High School Band program is a community of positive action. I will endeavor to speak, act **and** conduct myself in a manner that brings pride to my school, my band and to me at all times.

Band Rules and Procedures

1. Students are expected to conduct themselves as mature young adults while at any CHS Band function (i.e. practices, performances, games, competitions, trips, etc.)
2. Students are expected to respect all students, parents, staff members, and band directors at all times.
3. Students are expected to comply with reasonable requests from staff and parents, including simple instructions dealing with (arrival times, call times, dress code, ready areas, etc.)
4. Loud, boisterous, and disruptive behavior is not allowed.
5. Inappropriate language and public displays of affection are not acceptable.
6. Students must comply with CHS Band Dress Code.
7. Students are expected to respect other bands and other band performances.
8. Drinks and food are not permitted in the band room at any time.

Miscellaneous Policies & Procedures

1. At times during the year fees for All-State Band, Solo & Ensemble participants, etc. must be collected. All deadlines are expected to be met. When possible, these dates will be placed on the calendar.
2. Each student is assigned a slot for storing music, instruments, and folders. Students should keep their areas clean and only use areas assigned to them.
3. After-school rehearsals are vital to the success of our band program. Attendance of each individual is crucial for the overall success of the team.
4. Fundraising procedures will be given when each event begins. Please read, listen and follow all instructions to help the process run smoothly.
5. Use of the band facility after school by students for practicing, rehearsals, or any other reasons must be approved in advance by a director.
6. Leadership positions and/or membership in the marching band can be revoked if a student violates the rules of CHS or this band program.
7. When the band is traveling as a group, all students are expected to travel to and from the event on the buses. If a student **MUST** travel home with a parent from the **field trip, advanced notice must be given in writing and the parent MUST be present to “check out” their child from the trip.**

FOOTBALL GAME PROCEDURES

1. Band assembly times will vary with the football schedule and will be announced during the Thursday night "dress rehearsal".
2. All members are expected to attend every function in which the band participates. If you are unable to attend a performance, you must provide a written excuse to the Director of Bands five (5) days or more in advance. Personal illness, death in the family, weddings, and religious holidays are usually the only legitimate excuses for missing a performance.
3. No band member is permitted to leave the organization in advance of group dismissal at any time unless excused by the Director of Bands PRIOR TO THE PERFORMANCE.
4. While seated in the stands, only current band members are allowed in the band seating section. The third-quarter break is your chance to "catch-up" with alumni.
5. There is no eating in uniform this year and no food is allowed in the band block. Please make sure you eat dinner at home or at school (when dinner is served there) before the game. However, there will be plenty of water available to you.
6. The band will always sit in sections like instrumentation.
7. Attention should be given to the Band Director and Drum Major when he/she is standing in front of the band.
8. We play only as a group in the stands. Unapproved solo/section performance is strictly prohibited.

UNIFORM INFORMATION AND RULES

BASIC UNIFORM INFORMATION

Band members will be issued uniforms in August or before school starts. Each student will be issued a coat, hat, pants, gauntlets, and garment bag. These are included in your annual assessment. Students will purchase gloves, and shoes as needed from the band boosters. Members of the color guard must check with their instructor for uniform information. Uniforms are to be hung neatly at all times. Any items not stored at the school are the responsibility of the student who must keep them cleaned, in good repair, and ready for performance.

UNIFORM FEE

The uniform (jacket, pants, gauntlets, and hat) is included in the band assessment. However, each student who uses a school-owned uniform is responsible for the loss or damage to his/her uniform. Students that have damaged their uniform past normal wear and tear will be responsible for the reimbursement/replacement of that item.

WEARING OF NON-UNIFORM ITEMS WHILE IN UNIFORM

While in uniform, no performing students will be allowed to wear earrings or other jewelry unless issued with a uniform. Earrings must be removed. Band-aids will not be used to cover up freshly pierced ears. If un-issued items are seen on a student during an inspection, the student will be asked to remove the item. The student will not be able to perform until he/she removes that item(s) and meets appearance requirements.

HAIR

Students with shoulder-length hair will be required to wear their hair up (inside their shako) while wearing their shako.

ACCESSORIES

Shoes, gloves, and socks are part of the uniform and are the financial responsibility of the student. This includes cleaning and upkeep expenses. Such accessories are not to be stored at school. The band will not be responsible for the items in any way. Orders for accessory items will be placed with the Uniform Chairperson during uniform fitting.

INSPECTIONS

All band members are expected to keep their uniforms looking good at all times. Prior to each performance, an inspection will occur of all uniforms, shoes, instruments, and equipment. Students that do not meet appearance requirements may be removed from the performance.

GOLDEN RULE - Always hang up your uniform properly!!!

Last, but not least, **OUR** uniform should always be worn properly, with pride and dignity. Uniform jackets are always to be folded or hung up when not worn. When we warm up our jackets are folded and carefully placed on the ground with our hats on top of them (all facing the same way).

Marching Band Clothing Guide

Marching band is an outdoor activity that requires students to be athletic, mobile and functional. Students' dress attire should accommodate athletic activity with no restrictions due to wardrobe. The following articles of clothing are acceptable for marching band rehearsal attire:

- Tennis Shoes (running, cross trainer, athletic shoes, etc...)
- Socks (socks that cover the entire foot, not just the toes)
- Athletic Shorts (no khaki, board, cargo, jean shorts, etc. allowed)
- A white or light-colored shirt (dark colored shirts trap heat)
- A hat of some sort (baseball cap, full brimmed hat, athletic hat, etc.)

Students MAY NOT wear the following articles of clothing to rehearsal:

- Jeans!!!!
- Baggy pants of any kind!
- Toms, Chucks, Bobs, Vans, cleats, sandals, etc.
- Derogatory lettering or imaging of ANY kind!
- Revealing clothing of any kind!!

For music-only rehearsals, students may wear clothing that does not facilitate athletic activity. However, students will still be accountable to the Chestatee High School dress code and must follow the CHS rules and guidelines concerning appropriate attire.

Chestatee High School Bands Code of Conduct

The Chestatee High School band code of conduct contains Hall County school board and Chestatee High School adopted policies that are related to discipline in the Chestatee Band programs. The code of conduct provides detailed information about these policies and procedures for implementation, including consequences for student misconduct.

It is the student's responsibility to be familiar with these policies and exhibit acceptable behavior.

Band Directors and selected certified personnel have Chestatee High School's discretion to determine consequences for student misconduct.

All rule violations are handled by a Director of Bands or selected certified Chestatee High School personnel and is cumulative over the course of the school year.

Disciplinary Actions

For selected student misconduct during the course of the marching band season, the specified actions in this code of conduct are typically what will result in following infractions described. However, deviations from these guidelines may occur if the Director of Bands determines that the individual circumstances warrant it.

Chestatee War Eagle Band Disciplinary Scale

The Disciplinary scale is used for selected student misconduct. Major infractions of the Chestatee High School Band Code of Conduct will receive separate consequences based on the level of the infraction and could result in removal from the band program.

When the scale is used, the student will advance one step on the scale each time he/she displays any type of inappropriate behavior.

Chestatee War Eagle Band Disciplinary Scale

<u>Step</u>	<u>Action</u>
<u>1</u>	Student will be benched for 3 rd quarter break during the current or next football game
<u>2</u>	Student will be benched for the halftime performance during the current or next football game- parent contact will be made, parent conference needed
<u>3</u>	Student will be removed from the marching band program

The Following outlines types of misconduct for which the above scale will be used:

Attendance

Attendance at all band functions is critical for the overall success of the program. Students absent during rehearsals pose problems for the band during ensemble and marching (drill) rehearsal. Students absent from performances hurt the group immensely, as the part that they play is musically decreased. An added difficulty in marching band is large holes in the drill. **In order to avoid the above problems caused by a multitude of absences, the following policy will be enforced:**

Consequences

- 1st Unexcused Absence: benched for the half-time performance of the week the infraction occurred.
- 2nd Unexcused Absence: benched for half-time performance and 3rd quarter break of the week the infraction occurred.
- 3rd Unexcused Absence: Removal from the program

<u>Excused Absence</u>	<u>Unexcused Absence</u>
Serious personal illness (fever, vomiting, etc.)	Doctor/ Dentist appointment
Religious Holidays	Work Scheduling Conflict
Immediate Family Wedding	Completing Homework
Immediate Family Funeral	Club meetings (unless prior approval from director of bands is given)
	Head cold or “not feeling well”
	Any other absence (driver’s license appointments, family reunions, church retreats, homecoming float building, etc.)
	Other obligations that are not school related

All serious personal illness absences will require a parent note and or contact and may be subject to present a doctor’s note

An unexcused absence from a halftime performance, contest, festival or any other required performance will jeopardize the student’s membership in the ensemble.

All performances are mandatory. In the event that a member belongs to another organization (non-school affiliated) that has scheduled an event at the same time as a CHS Band function, the school band shall always take precedence. **Proactive communication between the director and the students will usually resolve any conflicts.** The director will review notification (in written form by parent or guardian) of conflicting events and will accept or reject the absence request, according to the policy. This is standard procedure for all bands, amateur and professional.

Tardy Policy

The purpose of this tardy policy is set to define the actions needed to be taken if late to practice. The following formula will be used:

For every 2 minutes that the student is tardy to rehearsal, 1 lap around the practice field will be given. If the student arrives on an odd number of minutes the laps will round down. However, a student will run 1 lap regardless of one or two minutes late period. If a student is late by 30 minutes or more, that student will be counted absent from rehearsal. This absence will be considered unexcused. The drum major, or field conductor will be responsible for keeping track of minutes late and laps ran. Students should not

wait for the drum major or field conductor to issue laps. It is the responsibility of the tardy student to run them when they arrive to practice.

If a student has a conflict with any rehearsal, he/she will need to contact Mr. Young via email, or phone call **at least** 24 hours in advance. All conflicts should be dealt with **PRIOR** to the rehearsal day. Students that call or email the day of the rehearsal in conflict will be counted absent unexcused (except in the case of an emergency).

Dress Code

Every student that is involved with the Chestatee War Eagle Band will follow the below dress code for all practices and performances. Any deviation from the dress code will result in the following consequences

Consequences:

- 1st Offense- verbal warning - asked to change into dress code appropriate clothing (if the student does not have clothes that are dress code appropriate, they will be sent home and will be counted as an unexcused absence)
- 2nd Offense- Student sent home and an unexcused absence will be given (students will follow the step consequences starting at step 1 for absences at that time and will follow the disciplinary scale)

Students will follow the guidelines for dress attire for all Chestatee War Eagle Band events, practices and performances. **All clothes worn to rehearsal must be athletic in nature and any items worn that may be in question is up to the discretion of the director of bands, and appointed personnel.**

Disrespect

Disrespect is defined as the willful refusal to carry out instruction of any director, staff member, or parent volunteer and/or insubordinate behavior to any director, staff member or parent.

Consequences:

Immediate directorial consequences based on the nature of the disrespect (following the disciplinary scale as a guide).

Disruptive Behavior

Consequences for Minor Rehearsal Disruptions

- 1st Offense- verbal warning
- 2nd Offense- 1 lap to be ran immediately around the practice field
- 3rd Offense- 2 laps to be ran immediately around the practice field
- 4th Offense- Director Referral- consequences will start at step 1 of the ChestateeHigh School Band Disciplinary Scale

* For inside rehearsal students will run the following outside rehearsal*

Minor- not serious disruption of instructional opportunities for other members of the band.

Major- acts that cause substantial disruption of instructional opportunities and/or threatening the safety of other students in band.

Consequences:

- Minor- will follow minor disruption consequence guide listed in code of conduct.
- Major- will follow CHS Band disciplinary scale, depending on the severity of the disruption.

Examples of Minor Disruptive Behavior	Examples of Major Disruptive Behavior
Talking during rehearsal	Loud and boisterous commentary
Being late to your designated spot after a break	Arguing at rehearsal with other students or staff
Do not have all equipment necessary for practice after transition or break	Taking advantage of break time/ skipping rehearsal for extended bathroom breaks, minor medical issues, etc.
Not following instructions	

Profanity

The use of profane, vulgar or obscene words, gestures or other actions that disrupt the overall functions of the band. This includes before and after practice activities.

Consequences:

- Will follow the CHS Band Disciplinary Scale.

<u>Step</u>	<u>Action</u>
<u>1</u>	Student will be benched for 3 rd quarter break during the current or next football game
<u>2</u>	Student will be benched for the halftime performance during the current or next football game- parent contact will be made, parent conference needed
<u>3</u>	Student will be removed from the marching band program

Bullying

Bullying is expressly prohibited. Bullying is defined as the following:

- Any recurring willful attempt to or threat to inflict injury, being verbal, non-verbal, or with technology, on another person, when accompanied by an apparent present ability to do so.
- Any intentional display of force such as would give the victim reason to fear or expect immediate bodily harm.

Consequences:

- 1st Offense: warning- sent to high school administrator
- 2nd Offense: 1 Game suspension
- 3rd Offense: removal from the program

Fighting

All parties involved in fights are subject to consequences by Chestatee High School regardless of who started the fight. Additional consequences beyond Chestatee High School's consequences will be added in regards to discipline in band-related instances. Consequences beyond the listed below may result depending on the circumstances related to the fight.

Consequences:

- 1st Offense: 3 game suspension
- 2nd Offense: removal from the program

Drugs and Alcohol

The use of any illegal drugs or alcohol is strictly prohibited and if a student is caught under the influence or with any of the above, the student will be removed from the program and turned into CHS Administration.

Electronic Communication Devices

Cell phones, music devices, cameras, tablets, and other electronic devices shall not be used during any practice or game. Students may only use their device during travel time or free time.

Consequences:

- 1st Offense: Verbal Warning
- 2nd Offense: loss of 3rd Quarter Break
- 3rd Offense: loss of half time performance
- 4th Offense: Removal from the program

Stands Protocol

Each student is expected to face forward and be involved in the game during the football game. No student may leave their spot for any reason, that includes:

- switching into another sections
- crossing out of the band block into the isles or the section next to them
- leaving the stands
- talking with friends, alumni, etc, instead of being attentive to the game.

Students that are not attentive or cannot stay in their designated area will face the following consequences.

Consequences:

- 1st Offense: loss of 3rd Quarter break during the current game
- 2nd Offense: loss of half time performance of the current game, or the following game, depending on the time of the infraction
- 3rd Offense: removal from the program.

Character

By being part of the Chestatee High School Band Program, you are accepting the fact that your actions are more prominent than those not associated with such an activity. Because of this, exemplary behavior is mandatory at all times, anywhere in the community, and at all school functions where you are recognized as a representative of Chestatee High School, and the Chestatee High School Band. **Please be aware that your appearance on social media falls into this category. Be careful with what you write and post. Slandering coaches, directors, staff, parents, or other members via social media will not be tolerated and will result in immediate dismissal. Images or posts that are in violation of the policies outlined in this document will also result in immediate removal from the program.**

Travel/ Bus Ride Procedures:

Students are expected to act like mature young adults when riding on the bus. The playing of personal music is for personal use only. All students that want to listen to music must use earphones. Any disruptive, boisterous, or misbehavior on the bus is subject to the following consequences.

Consequences:

- 1st Offense: student is assigned a designated seat, and will lose 3rd quarter break
- 2nd Offense: student will lose the next half time performance, a parent will be contacted
- 3rd Offense: student will be removed from the program.

Participation Fees

Participation in the Chestatee War Eagle Band is a financial commitment. The Chestatee Marching Band is funded primarily from student dues and participation fees. Without paid fees, uniforms and supplies needed cannot be ordered as well as travel and food arrangements cannot be made. **Fees must be paid in full and on time. Failure to maintain the payment schedule without communication with Mr. Young will jeopardize your position in the band program.**

By signing this policy and attending practice beginning on July 19th (with the exception of Drumline and Colorguard, which will be their first summer practice) you are accepting a position in the Chestatee High School marching band and will accept the responsibility for your participation fees. **Should a member decide to not complete the season after July 19th (or other dates noted above), he/she is still responsible for their participation fees.** The student must pay those fees before the next marching season or the student will not be allowed to participate until all financial obligations have been met. Seniors will not be allowed to graduate until fees are paid in full. **All members will abide by the payment plan outlined below and will communicate extenuating circumstances with Mr. Young.**

- **Student Participation Fee - \$350** (*this does not include additional fees for items such as shoes, colorguard accessories, bags, gloves, etc.*)

- **Payment Schedule**
 - May 18th - Payment 1 Due (\$70)
 - June 18th - Payment 2 Due (\$70)
 - July 30th - Payment 3 Due (\$70)
 - August 26th - Payment 4 Due (\$70)
 - September 25th - Payment 5 Due (\$70)



Handbook Agreement Form

By signing, I agree to follow the rules and policies stated in this document. I understand that I must attend ALL rehearsals and performances and that I am responsible for participation fees for the Chestatee High School Marching Band. I also understand that should I break any rules outlined that the discipline policy will be enforced.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Print Name: _____

By signing, I agree that I have read and understood the policies of the Chestatee High School Band program. I will agree to support my student in upholding the policies and responsibilities, both financial and otherwise, and understand that the discipline policy will be enforced if my student violates any of the rules stated in this document.

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____