

---

# MAURINE CAIN MIDDLE SCHOOL

---



## BAND DEPARTMENT STUDENT & PARENT HANDBOOK

2019-2020

updated: 8/24/19

**Trevor Ousey**

Director of Bands

[trevor.ousey@rockwallisd.org](mailto:trevor.ousey@rockwallisd.org)

(972) 772-1155

**Preston Prior**

Assistant Director

[preston.prior@rockwallisd.org](mailto:preston.prior@rockwallisd.org)

(972) 772-1155

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

<b><i>Introduction</i></b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b><i>Directors</i></b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b><i>Goals and Objectives</i></b> .....	<b>4</b>
Band Expectations .....	4
Discipline Plan.....	4
<b><i>Attendance Policy</i></b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b><i>Band Department Hours</i></b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b><i>Band Expenses</i></b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b><i>Bus Procedures and Policies</i></b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b><i>Communication</i></b> .....	<b>7</b>
Charms Emails.....	7
Remind Text Alerts .....	7
Take-Home Letters.....	7
Official Facebook Page .....	8
Official Twitter Page .....	8
<b><i>Concert Attire</i></b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b><i>Student Pick-Up Policy</i></b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b><i>Ensembles</i></b> .....	<b>9</b>
Honor Band.....	9
Symphonic Band .....	9
Concert Band .....	10
<b><i>Eligibility</i></b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b><i>Grading</i></b> .....	<b>11</b>
<b><i>Instrument Policy</i></b> .....	<b>12</b>
<b><i>Parent Volunteers</i></b> .....	<b>12</b>
<b><i>Private Lessons</i></b> .....	<b>12</b>
Private Lesson Staff.....	13

## INTRODUCTION

---

Welcome to the Cain Middle School Band Program! It is with great enthusiasm and excitement that we introduce our band program to you in a more detailed manner. The Cain Middle School band program has established a wonderful tradition of excellence and we are glad you have chosen to be a part of it.

Your child's participation in our band program is beneficial in many ways. Band students are engaged daily in a highly creative performing art that stimulates growth in areas of the human brain that no other discipline can. This growth effortlessly transfers into your student's academic life. In addition, our band students will develop traits such as teamwork, responsibility, dedication, self-discipline, social skills, confidence, leadership and dependability. Membership in our band program will give all students a sense of accomplishment, pride, and respect as the students develop musical and personal skills that will enrich their lives.

The purpose of this handbook is to outline the guidelines and expectations for making this year a success for all involved, and to serve as a guide and resource for students and parents. Both students and their parents should take the time to thoroughly read this handbook. Upon completion, please sign the handbook acknowledgement form included in this packet, indicating your understanding of these guidelines and expectations.

## DIRECTORS

---

We are fortunate to be surrounded by quality teachers on campus and from Rockwall-Heath High School. The band directors in our cluster include:

- Chris Kosterman – Director of Fine Arts, Rockwall ISD
- Ben Sumrak – Director of Bands, Rockwall-Heath High School
- Trevor Ousey – Director of Bands, Cain Middle School
- Preston Prior – Assistant Director, CMS
- Emily Keliher – Assistant Director, RHHS
- Ethan Streeter – Assistant Director, RHHS
- Rod Kosterman – Assistant Director, RHHS

In addition, the directors at CMS and RHHS also teach beginning band at five elementary schools in our area:

- Amy Parks Elementary: Emily Keliher
- Linda Lyon Elementary: Trevor Ousey / Preston Prior
- Pullen Elementary: Trevor Ousey / Preston Prior
- Rochell Elementary: Trevor Ousey / Preston Prior
- Springer Elementary: Trevor Ousey / Preston Prior

## GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

---

**Our Mission:** The Cain Middle School Band Program will provide opportunities for young people to develop strong character, become excellent all-around students, and grow into successful musicians who develop a life-long appreciation for music.

During the school year, the Cain Middle School Band has the following goals and objectives:

- To learn and demonstrate the band content standards as outlined by the Texas State Board of Education
- To learn and demonstrate the process of creating and perfecting music through various concerts and performance opportunities
- To continue mastering instrumental technique and musical ability
- To develop and grow music vocabulary and theory
- To prepare for high school band playing standards

## BAND EXPECTATIONS

---

**Be Respectful of Yourself**

**Be Respectful of Others**

**Be Respectful of Your Surroundings**

**Be Prepared for Class**

**No Food or Drinks in the Band Hall**

*This includes gum and candy. Unflavored bottled water is the only exception.*

**Only band students are permitted in the Band Hall**

*Adult supervision is required. If the band hall door is locked and the hallway is dark, students are not permitted into the band hall. Also, students are not allowed in the percussion room, ensemble room, practice rooms, or library without permission from the band director and adult supervision*

## DISCIPLINE PLAN

---

Any infraction of the Rockwall ISD or Cain Middle School Code of Conduct will be addressed in accordance with school and district policy in one or more of the following manners\*:

1st Offense----- Verbal Warning

2nd Offense---- Parent contact

3rd Offense ---- Behavior intervention including, but not limited to, a written referral, parent-teacher conference, lunch detention, etc.

4th Offense ---- Office Referral

\*Severe breaches of policies and procedures will be referred to the office immediately.

## ATTENDANCE POLICY

---

We expect all students to make an honest effort to come to school daily. Students cannot be successful if they are continuously absent. If a student is absent on any given day, he/she are responsible for checking with his/her teachers and band directors to make up any missed assignments.

**Absences During the School Day:** Absences during the school day will be recorded with the school. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian and the student to verify any school absences and make sure they are excused.

**Absences from Before/After School Sectionals:** While attendance of before/after school sectionals are mandatory, the directors understand about legitimate conflicts where the student cannot attend a sectional rehearsal. Each one of these absences will be discussed on a case-by-case basis and may affect the student's grade or participation in band. It is required that the student make every effort to notify the band director of an absence in advance of the event. A band department Absence Request form is available for students to notify directors prior to absences.

**Absence from a Concert:** Absences from any concert are *strictly* discouraged. If a band member cannot make a concert, the parent must have a conference with the band director *prior* to the concert in order to work out an alternative assignment. Any unexcused absence from a concert will reflect a significant reduction in the student's grade and possible disciplinary action at the discretion of the band director, which could include removal from the band program.

## BAND DEPARTMENT HOURS

---

The band hall opens for section rehearsals at 7:00 am, and closes at 5:00 pm, except on Fridays or the day before a holiday, in which case the band hall will close at 4:30 pm. The band hall may be open for private lessons, as needed by the private lesson teachers and with the permission of the band director.

Sectionals will be held from 7:15 – 8:15 am before school, and from 4:00 – 5:00 pm after school for Honors and Symphonic Band members. Sectional times may be adjusted as needed.

## BAND EXPENSES

---

In order for every student to be successful in the band program, several expenses do occur to help offset the cost of our program. Here is a list of the band expenses for our program:

Expense Title	Amount	Purpose	Who does this apply to?
<b>Supplies</b>	\$25	Helps offset the cost of the 3 ring black binder, music copies, and other supplies we use in class. This does not include instrument supplies.	All band students
<b>CMS Band T-Shirt</b>	\$15	Used for informal performances and events. This shirt does not change from year to year.	Any band student who needs a T-Shirt (primarily 7 <sup>th</sup> graders)
<b>CMS Band Formal Shirt</b>	\$30	Used for formal performances and events. This shirt does not change from year to year.	All Symphonic and Honor Band students who do not already own one
<b>Instrument Rental Expense</b>	\$60 for each instrument * Students on free/reduced lunch pay a reduced rate	Helps the band pay for instrument maintenance and upkeep for school-owned instrument	All students using a school-owned instrument

*Note: It is the philosophy of the Cain Middle School Band that no student should be denied the privilege of band membership due to financial hardship. For options in meeting financial obligations, parents should contact the director.*

## BUS PROCEDURES AND POLICIES

---

There are multiple opportunities where the band will travel for performance, adjudication, or fun. The following policies and procedures apply to all students on any bus trip:

- All band members will ride the bus going to and coming from the event. Exceptions to this rule require signed student release form by the parents prior to the event.
- Students may be assigned to a specific bus prior to departure. Students are not permitted to change busses.
- Students are required to obey the driver and chaperones in charge.

*Bus Procedures cont.*

- Rockwall I.S.D. prohibits loud talking, inappropriate language, standing in aisles, or sitting on the back of the seats while on the buses. Nothing is permitted to hang out of or be thrown from the windows.
- No food or drinks are allowed on a bus unless approved by the directors.
- Public displays of affection are not permitted on the bus. Band directors, bus drivers, chaperones will enforce this.
- Instruments and other equipment will be carried on the bus and/or band truck. Every band member is responsible for his/her own instrument and equipment.
- Students must be seated while the bus is in motion.

---

## COMMUNICATION

---

We will make every effort to provide clear and timely communication regarding all aspects of the band program. The band staff use a variety of methods to communicate. The details of each method are listed below:

---

### CHARMS EMAILS

---

The Charms band management system allows the band directors to communicate with the entire program through email in a clear and effective manner. In order to receive our emails through Charms, please follow the Charms Instruction sheet given out at the beginning of the year. Students and parents may also request this sheet from a band director. Having the correct information in Charms will also allow parents to receive the **Monday Morning Memo** - a weekly newsletter sent every Monday morning to keep parents and students up-to-date on the latest information regarding the Cain Middle School band program.

---

### REMINDE TEXT ALERTS

---

The Remind system was created and designed by educators for educators. The service is free and signing up is easy. Once enrolled, members will receive text alerts with important information about the band program. We will also use this system when travelling to inform parents of itinerary changes. An information sheet with instructions on how to sign up for Remind alerts will be sent home with students during the first week of school.

---

### TAKE-HOME LETTERS

---

Prior to an event, audition, concert, or any other important milestone in the calendar, a letter will be sent home with the student with details for the event. Details will include call time, performance time, required attire, and other important information.

*Communication cont.*

---

## OFFICIAL FACEBOOK PAGE

---

The Cain Mustang Band has an official Facebook page for parents, students, and the community. We use this page to post important reminders and information about the program, as well as share our progress as an organization and impact on the community. Our Facebook page can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/cainmustangband>

---

## OFFICIAL TWITTER PAGE

---

The Cain Mustang Band has an official Twitter page for parents, students, and the community. We use this page to post important reminders and information about the program, as well as share our progress as an organization and impact on the community. Our Twitter page can be found at <https://www.twitter.com/cainmustangband>

---

## CONCERT ATTIRE

---

Students should always wear the band uniform with pride. A professional look is very important, especially at concerts and competitions, as judges count behavior and appearance in the band's overall rating.

**Informal Uniform:** Mandatory for all bands; includes a **band t-shirt** purchased from the band expense form and **jeans**. Jeans should be free of holes and ladies should refrain from wearing "jeggings".

**Formal Uniform:** Mandatory for Symphonic and Honor Band only; may also be referred to as "Dress Black"; includes **black, long sleeve band shirt** purchased from the band expense form, **black dress pants, black dress shoes, long black dress socks**, and a **black belt**; open-toe shoes and shoes with significant heels are discouraged

---

## STUDENT PICK-UP POLICY

---

Students are required to be picked up by a parent or guardian no more than 30 minutes after the conclusion of an after-school event. After 30 minutes have passed, band directors will call all available emergency contact numbers and continue to do so until an adult has been reached or the student has been picked up. After 90 minutes, the directors will call the principal of the school and inform them of the situation. At that time, with the approval of the principal, a band director may call the authorities so a police officer can wait with the student.

If a student is not picked up after 30 minutes from the conclusion of the event more than twice in a school year, that student will be prohibited from traveling with the band program at the discretion of the director on a case-by-case basis.

## ENSEMBLES

---

### HONOR BAND

---

**Director:** Trevor Ousey

**Meeting:** All-Year, 4<sup>th</sup> period

**Prerequisites:** One or more years of band. In good academic and behavior standing with the RISD band department. Successful audition from a feeder elementary school.

**Description:** This advanced-level band class emphasizes the development of full-band performance skills in preparation for concerts and UIL contest. The band is a full ensemble which plays grade 2-3 literature. The students continue developing solid fundamentals, increase music ability and range, and prepare students for high school band. The elements of more complex melody and harmony and interpretation are addressed, and a higher level of technical playing proficiency is developed and enjoyed in multiple performing opportunities. Individual growth and achievement are encouraged through solo and ensemble performance, Pre-UIL Contest, UIL Concert and Sight-Reading Contest, the Dallas Wind Symphony Windband Festival, All-District band auditions, TMEA Region 25 Honor Band auditions, and all district concerts. Students will attend one weekly co-curricular section practice, or “sectional,” which will last for 60 minutes either before or after school. These are scheduled the first week of school and will be the same day each week and will continue into the month of May. Attendance at these are mandatory, graded, and are considered an extension of classroom instruction.

### SYMPHONIC BAND

---

**Directors:** Preston Prior

**Meeting:** All-Year, 6<sup>th</sup> period

**Prerequisites:** One or more years of band. In good academic and behavior standing with the RISD band department. Successful audition from a feeder elementary school.

**Description:** This intermediate-level band class emphasizes the development of full-band performance skills in preparation for concerts and UIL contest. The band is a full ensemble which plays grade 1-2 literature. The students continue to reinforce basic fundamentals, increase music ability and range, and prepare students for high school band or Honor Band. The elements of more basic melody and harmony and interpretation are reinforced, and a higher level of technical playing proficiency is developed and enjoyed in multiple performing opportunities. Individual growth and achievement are encouraged through solo and ensemble performance, Pre-UIL Contest, UIL Concert and Sight-Reading Contest, All-District band auditions, TMEA Region 25 Honor Band auditions, and all district concerts. Students will attend one weekly co-curricular section practice, or “sectional,” which will last for 60 minutes either before or after school. These are scheduled the first week of school and will be the same day each week and will continue into the month of May. Attendance at these are mandatory, graded, and are considered an extension of classroom instruction.

## CONCERT BAND

---

**Director:** Preston Prior

**Meeting:** All-Year, 7<sup>th</sup> period

**Prerequisites:** Zero or more years of band. In good academic and behavior standing with the RISD band department.

**Description:** This band class emphasizes the development of individual and full-band performance skills in preparation for concerts. The band is a full ensemble which plays grade 0.5-1.5 literature. The students learn basic fundamentals, increase music ability and range, and prepare students for high school band or Symphonic Band. The basic elements of melody and harmony are introduced, and a basic level of technical playing proficiency is developed and enjoyed in multiple performing opportunities. Individual growth and achievement are encouraged through optional after-school sectionals. The Concert band is a group that focuses on beginning band curriculum for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students with no prior band experience, or students who need additional instruction to move into Symphonic or Honors Band. Private lessons are strongly encouraged in order for the student to close the gap and move into the Symphonic or Honors band.

## ELIGIBILITY

---

All Texas band programs adhere to the eligibility rules and regulations as stated by TEA and RISD. Some band activities are designated as extra-curricular. Students participating in these activities are governed by eligibility requirements. A student shall be suspended from participation in all extra-curricular activities sponsored or sanctioned by the school district during the six-week period following a grade reporting period in which the student received a grade lower than seventy in any class. Loss of eligibility does not take effect until seven days after the end of the reporting period. Ineligible students are not suspended from practice or rehearsal for extra-curricular activities.

Students may regain eligibility under certain circumstances. If a student has been suspended as a result of failing, he/she may regain eligibility by passing ALL courses by the third week of the following grading period. Reinstatement of eligibility would occur seven days after the three-week progress report period

The eligibility law does not affect activities that are considered co-curricular components of any course. Examples of these activities are all rehearsals and performances that take place as a regular extension of classroom instruction. Any performance that is competitive in nature or for which admission is charged is deemed extra-curricular. These performances include the Dallas Winds Invitational, Music Across Texas Festival, and other contests.

**New in 2019:** Eligibility no longer affects participation in UIL Concert and Sight-Reading evaluation.

## GRADING

Students in band receive multiple grades each week. Each grade falls into one of two categories: Daily Grades and Major Grades. The combination of both categories equal the 9-weeks grade.

<p><b>Daily Grades</b> <b>50% of 9-Weeks Grade</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Active participation including conduct/citizenship grade*</li> <li>2. Appropriate supplies for class. Ex. Instrument, binder, reeds, etc.</li> <li>3. Parent signed assignment sheets</li> <li>4. Sectional Attendance (Symphonic and Honor Bands only)</li> </ol>	<p><b>Major (Test) Grades</b> <b>50% of 9-Weeks Grades</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Playing tests, live and recorded</li> <li>2. Pass-offs and hearings</li> </ol>
<p><b>Semester Exam Grade</b> <b>10% of Semester Grade</b></p> <p>This will be based off attendance and participation in each semester concert:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Winter Concert for the Fall semester</li> <li>• Spring Concert for the Spring semester</li> </ul>	

**\*Conduct / Citizenship Grade:** The following behaviors will be evaluated daily and will be the basis for calculating the conduct/citizenship grade.

- Respect
- Positive behavior
- Attentiveness
- Self-control
- Correct rehearsal etiquette

Any infraction will result in a conduct/citizenship grade deduction. Frequent or severe infractions will also result in parent contact and further disciplinary action, which could include potential removal from the band program.

**Make-Up Grades:** Sectional attendance, playing tests, pass-offs, and hearings can be made up with director approval for a reduced grade. Excused absences from sectionals and concerts do not count against a student's grade. Any grade lower than an 80 can be made up without director's prior approval, but must still be scheduled with a director.

**Extra Credit:** Extra credit is also given for attending concerts of professional Orchestras, Wind Bands, Jazz Bands, or chamber ensembles. Simply bring in a program or ticket stub with a parent note or signature for credit. Extra credit points will be awarded to the lowest daily grade for the 9 weeks. Ask the band directors if you need more information about the various professional ensembles in our area.

## INSTRUMENT POLICY

---

Students who are issued a school instrument will be provided a contract of agreement that the student, parent, and director will sign. This agreement states that the parent/guardian will be held responsible for the instrument while it is issued to the student. Students who are issued a school-owned instrument will be required to care and maintain the instrument while it is in their possession. All instruments are checked out to students in playing condition, and it is expected that they be returned in the same condition. Additionally, an instrument rental expense is assessed for each instrument, each school year.

## PARENT VOLUNTEERS

---

Although we consider every parent a part of the band organization we hope that you will choose to become an active band parent volunteer! Here are a few ways you can be involved:

- Chaperone band field trips
- Help to move band equipment for performances and contests
- Attend contest, concerts, and functions to support students
- Take photos and videos for our campus website and publications

Parent Volunteers are an integral part of our band program. We hope that you will choose to take an active role in our organization! Please contact a band director if you are interested!

## PRIVATE LESSONS

---

The Cain Middle School and Rockwall-Heath High School band programs share a faculty of highly qualified specialists on each of our band instruments who are available to give private lessons. These private teachers are screened by Rockwall Independent School District. Lessons may occur during the class period or before/after school depending on the availability of the teacher and the facility. Coordination of private lessons will be between the lesson teacher and the student. Lessons are \$19.00 each and can be paid for one month at a time. We ***strongly*** encourage all band students to participate in private lessons. Limited scholarship is available on a needs basis. Please contact the director for an application. Not all students will be selected for a scholarship.

Purposes of the private lesson program:

- To provide the student with one-on-one guidance by a specialist on the student's instrument.
- To provide for individual differences of music students.
- To boost the achievement level of all music students.
- To aid the student in attaining the musical goals established by T.E.A.
- To provide the opportunity for private lessons in our own school building, thereby making it more convenient and less costly for our students.
- To provide the school with control over the quality and cost of private instruction.
- To continue to improve the quality of music education in RISD.

PRIVATE LESSON STAFF

<p><b><u>Flute</u></b>  Eduardo Martinez  (786) 239-8664  eamflutes@gmail.com</p>	<p><b><u>Flute</u></b>  Jessica Morrow  (214) 215-9465  jessica.morrow23@gmail.com</p>
<p><b><u>Oboe</u></b>  Max Adler  (415) 497-6514  madleroboe@gmail.com</p>	<p><b><u>Bassoon</u></b>  Donna Foley  (903) 805-4797  learn_two_reed@yahoo.com</p>
<p><b><u>Clarinet</u></b>  Karen Pearce  (812) 219-2154  karen.d.pearce@gmail.com</p>	<p><b><u>Clarinet</u></b>  Mary Poole  (917) 628-0594  clarinetgoals@gmail.com</p>
<p><b><u>Clarinet</u></b>  Jessica Hill  (972) 896-0987  jesshillclarinet@gmail.com</p>	<p><b><u>Saxophone</u></b>  Darron Carrington  (832) 233-4313  carringtdr@yahoo.com</p>
<p><b><u>Saxophone</u></b>  JeMarcus Bridges  (832) 215-6894  jroc25694@gmail.com</p>	<p><b><u>French Horn</u></b>  Tim Stevens  (872) 533-5521  Timothy_L_Stevens@yahoo.com</p>
<p><b><u>Trumpet</u></b>  Cristian Román  (281) 450-8039  cristianroman375@gmail.com</p>	<p><b><u>Trumpet</u></b>  Jeremy Diaz  (214) 585-2936  jeremydiaz1001@yahoo.com</p>
<p><b><u>Trombone</u></b>  Andrew Wilson  (903) 819-1445  wilsonbass88@gmail.com</p>	<p><b><u>Trombone/Euphonium</u></b>  Craig Batey  (972) 743-4542  craig.batey@gmail.com</p>
<p><b><u>Trombone</u></b>  Wes Woodrow  (214) 924-6321  weswoodrow@aol.com</p>	<p><b><u>Tuba</u></b>  Ken Drobnak  (972) 772-1051  ken.drobnak@gmail.com</p>

**Percussion**  
Quincey Jarmon  
(214) 336-8052  
qjbomb1@yahoo.com