
MAURINE CAIN MIDDLE SCHOOL



BAND DEPARTMENT STUDENT & PARENT HANDBOOK

2019-2020

→ *Beginning Band Edition* ←

updated: 8/24/19

Trevor Ousey

Pullen / Linda Lyon /

Rochell / Springer

trevor.ousey@rockwallisd.org

(972) 772-1155

Preston Prior

Pullen / Linda Lyon /

Rochell / Springer

Preston.prior@rockwallisd.org

(972) 772-1155

Emily Keliher

Amy-Parks

emily.keliher@rockwallisd.org

(972) 772-2474

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Cain Middle School Beginning Band Program! It is with great enthusiasm and excitement that we welcome you to the Cain Mustang Band family.

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

Here are the band directors for each elementary band program in the Cain Middle School cluster:

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

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Our Mission: The Cain Middle School Beginning 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 Beginning 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 introduce and master fundamental instrumental technique and musical ability
- To develop and grow music vocabulary and theory
- To prepare for middle 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 class

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

DISCIPLINE PLAN

Any infraction of the Rockwall ISD or 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.

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.

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?
Supplies	\$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
Beginning Band T-Shirt	\$15	Used for all performances and events.	All band students
Instrument Rental Expense	\$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.

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.

REMIND 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. An information sheet with instructions on how to sign up for Remind alerts will be sent home with students during the first few weeks of school.

Communication cont.

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.

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.

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

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.

Daily Grades 50% of 6-Weeks Grade	Major (Test) Grades 50% of 6-Weeks Grades
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Active participation including conduct/citizenship grade*2. Appropriate supplies for class. Ex. Instrument, binder, reeds, etc.3. Parent signed assignment sheets	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Playing tests2. Pass-offs and hearings3. Attendance at concerts

***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: 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 practice time recorded during vacation time and 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 6 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

Flute

Eduardo Martinez
(786) 239-8664
eamflutes@gmail.com

Flute

Jessica Morrow
(214) 215-9465
jessica.morrow23@gmail.com

Oboe

Max Adler
(415) 497-6514
madleroboe@gmail.com

Bassoon

Donna Foley
(903) 805-4797
learn_two_reed@yahoo.com

Clarinet

Karen Pearce
(812) 219-2154
karen.d.pearce@gmail.com

Clarinet

Mary Poole
(917) 628-0594
clarinetgoals@gmail.com

Clarinet

Jessica Hill
(972) 896-0987
jesshillclarinet@gmail.com

Saxophone

Darron Carrington
(832) 233-4313
carringtdr@yahoo.com

Saxophone

JeMarcus Bridges
(832) 215-6894
jroc25694@gmail.com

French Horn

Tim Stevens
(872) 533-5521
Timothy_L_Stevens@yahoo.com

Trumpet

Cristian Román
(281) 450-8039
cristianroman375@gmail.com

Trumpet

Jeremy Diaz
(214) 585-2936
jeremydiaz1001@yahoo.com

Trombone

Andrew Wilson
(903) 819-1445
wilsonbass88@gmail.com

Trombone/Euphonium

Craig Batey
(972) 743-4542
craig.batey@gmail.com

Trombone

Wes Woodrow
(214) 924-6321
weswoodrow@aol.com

Tuba

Ken Drobnak
(972) 772-1051
ken.drobnak@gmail.com

Percussion

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