

BAND PARENT SURVIVAL GUIDE

This guide is the product of band parents who spent a large portion of our “rookie” year in various stages of confusion. In the many hours we spent together watching practices and performances, waiting to pick up our kids, and following yellow school buses, we asked hundreds of questions. This guide is our attempt to share with the “upcoming rookies” some of the answers to the many questions we asked. We hope you find it helpful! We welcome your feedback! Welcome to the City View Band Family!

BAND HANDBOOK

- The band handbook is a longer detailed book regarding all expectations, guidelines, rules, and stipulations presented by the band staff. Please refer to that document on the band website if something is not specified here in this document.
<https://www.cityview-isd.net/o/band/page/documents-and-files>
- There are other documents there concerning the following:
 - Physicals, Order Forms, and Sign up Sheets
- Important highlights from the handbook include
 - Attendance, Participation, and Expectations
 - Behavior, Conduct, and Trips
 - Travel Procedure and Respect (Check out at events)
 - Grading
 - Care and use of facilities and Equipment
 - Uniforms and Needed Items
 - Ensemble Designations
 - Leadership Team
 - Letter Jacket System (New)

BECOMING A MEMBER OF THE CITY VIEW BAND PARENT ASSOCIATION

- One of the most important things you can do to help your student is to become a member of the City View Band Parent Association.
- Just contact the current Band Parent President via the contact on the website to become a member and volunteer for whatever you can help with.

WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA

- The directors maintain a website with an up-to-date calendar and all kinds of important information.
- Please visit this website often: <https://www.cityview-isd.net/o/band>. You can also find it by clicking the schools tab and selecting City View Jr. Sr. High from the dropdown menu. Next click explore and find the label “Band.”
- A listing of all the City View Band Parent officers and representatives and their contact information are on the **Band Boosters** page via the button.
- The Minutes from the monthly meetings, the bylaws, and this guide can also be found on the Band Boosters page.
- The band facebook is “**CVHS Chargin, Thunderin, Mustang Band.**” The Band Boosters facebook page is “**City View Band Boosters**”

Parent Square and Student Square

- All Guardians that are registered with the school through skyward can access notifications for their student through the Parent Square app using the email on file.
- Please log in to this and stay up to date on real time notifications, and announcements.
- We use **Signup.com** for volunteering in the football concession stand and for other events. Notifications will be sent out via email and The Band Boosters Facebook. You’ll sign up for the events you can work and will get a reminder via email.
- We will also hold in-person volunteer sign ups during **Showcase and Meet the Teacher**, and we will have a contact form available then to help you get started.

BAND PARENT MEETINGS

- The City View Band Parent meetings are generally as needed and occur corresponding close to the same time as a band rehearsal each month. Please check the band calendar in case this changes. We usually meet in the high school band hall or commons.
- The Minutes from the monthly meetings are posted on the band website.

BOOSTER HUB

- The City View Band Parents use Booster Hub to encompass all things band related. Included is a calendar that is color coded for parents to know who it pertains to like Marching Band, Color Guard, Jr. High, etc.
- There is an online merchandise store. It lists items for sale and shows which items are in stock or require shipping.
- Volunteer sign ups for concessions and other events that are posted on this site.

- This will also give you the ability to go into the booster or band websites, and look up files for meeting minutes and other important documents.
- There is a chat feature for questions regarding anything in the booster website, and these parents are experienced enough to help with band questions to be able to answer or point you in the right direction.
- Announcements will be sent out through booster hub, and we are working on using this site as a place to be able to sell tickets for events and collect fees from marching band activities.

FUNDRAISING

- We do several fundraisers throughout the year to help with expenses such as trips, parties, food, equipment, etc.
- All fundraisers benefit band students from 5th through 12th grades.
- Our main fundraiser is the **Football Concession Stand (Jr. High and JV)**, which we operate for all **Jr. High and JV** football games on **Thursday nights, Volleyball Games (Usually Tuesday and Friday)**, and **any other event where concessions are needed. The schedule may vary.**
- All band parents are encouraged to work when possible during football season:
 - You can sign up in-person at **Showcase and at Meet the Teacher** in August.
 - You can sign up using Signup.com, and you can contact any band parent officer with any questions.
 - When you work in the concession stand, **you do not have to pay admission.** Just inform the gate attendant that you are working the concession stand.
 - We know that things happen. If you are unable to work a shift you signed up for, please try to find someone to take your shift. If you cannot, please contact a **band parent officer.**
 - Directors ask band students to sign up to volunteer as well, but parents are also needed.
- We also do other types of fundraisers throughout the year such as merchandise sales (baked goods, candy, wrapping paper, home goods), restaurant fundraisers, window decals, merchandise, blankets, crowdfunding etc.
- Your new ideas for fundraising are welcome!

INSTRUMENTS AND EQUIPMENT

- City View ISD provides instruments for students in order to be in band. We want all students to be able to participate, and we know some instruments are very expensive.

- Students that want to have their own instrument can purchase their own or rent to own through Sam Gibbs Music Company. We recommend purchasing using our 'recommended material list' on the band website. <https://www.cityview-isd.net/o/band>
- All Percussion implements, mouthpieces, reeds, and other accessories are also provided, but again we recommend students look into purchasing these items as they can.

CLASSES AND PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

- City View ISD provides a multitude of performance opportunities for each level of band student. See the list below:
- Beginner band-any student that has not been in band before (6th and 7th Grade) contd..
- Middle School Band- any student in their 2nd or 3rd year of playing an instrument (some 8th grade beginners will be in this class, and it will be their responsibility to learn the required material with the help of directors throughout the year to be successful)
- High School Band (Varsity Ensemble)- any student in high school, and students in their 3rd year as a performer are eligible to be in this group. *Some 3rd year students may be recommended or opt to stay in MS band.* This includes Guard as an entity of the Marching Band which is an auditioned section of the ensemble. Please be advised there is a small cost associated with participation in the Marching band, as well as mandatory physicals. These costs pay for their shirt, shorts, shoes, and gloves which they get to keep at the end of the season. When you pay for it it will be yours!
- Jazz Band- any high school student or auditioned middle school student in 7th grade may participate in this group. Jazz runs from November-December, and March-May.
- Solo and Ensemble- Beginner and Middle school students will work on solos starting in January with the beginner contest being the week before spring break, and the middle school contest being in late April. High School students will sign up and get music beginning in November with their UIL Contest being in February. Students must coordinate with ensemble members in order to have sufficient practice time. Directors are not able to create a schedule for multiple ensembles across very complex schedules. However we will have the band hall open before and after school wherever students need in order to prepare. The state contest for High School is held on Memorial Day weekend in May.
- Winter Guard- any student 7th-12th grade who auditions can be a part of this ensemble. This group begins with auditions and clinic rehearsals in November and extends into Spring Break in March. This ensemble requires audition, and it is at the discretion of directors for recommended participation. Physicals are required for this activity, and includes equipment such as wooden rifles, flags, and sabres being tossed and caught simultaneously with dance choreo, horizontal, and lateral movement.

OUTSIDE OPPORTUNITIES

- Lessons- These can be set up through a variety of ways. First Baptist Church, Sam Gibbs Music, and local lesson studios provide students with a chance to get more 1- on-1 help to further better their musical abilities. If interested please find the recommended lesson teacher list on the website.
<https://www.cityview-isd.net/o/band/page/recommended-lesson-teacher-list>
- Summer Camps- These are a great opportunity for students to be able to spend anywhere from a few days to a week to better themselves as musicians. The most notable camps we have used are the MSU summer camp and the East Texas A&M Leadership, Music, and Drum Major Camp. Many Universities like Tech, TCU, West Texas, HPU offer camps just to name a few. Info for these is posted in January to give students and parents time for times when budgeting is necessary.
- Extracurricular and Fitness- For students who are going into the marching band we recommend students to stay active through the summer, but that is not exclusively for these students. Many gyms like planet fitness provide students a summer pass to stay active and it helps for marching band members. Staying active significantly helps students when we work through our Marching Health program used through the school activities.

FOOTBALL SEASON - MARCHING BAND PERFORMANCES

- Before the season begins, parents will receive a packet with forms for UIL and order forms for all uniform needs, and parent shirts. Families are responsible for paying for these items in a timely manner, and the band staff/boosters will work out payment plans for these orders if communication is received.
- City View Band supporters provide water for the band students throughout the football season by donating and dropping off water as capable to the High School band hall.
- The official band theme T-shirt will be worn under the band uniform at every performance, game or contest. Some guardians opt to purchase shirts for family and friends or a second shirt for their student, which can be handy if we have a game on Friday and a contest the next day. A single **Band T-shirt and pair of shorts** are ordered for all students prior to the season, and is included on the packet that is turned in in May.
- **LONG BLACK socks** are a must! It is a good idea to have several pairs on hand.
- **After HOME games**, the band students are required to clean the entire stadium before marching back to the band hall. Please keep this in mind when you are waiting for them after the game.

- **Transportation** to and from all out-of-town games is via yellow school buses and/or blue athletic buses. If you plan to take your band student home with you after an out-of-town game, you must contact the band directors no later than 3 days prior with a note/email. Once we are done with the specified event a parent must check them out with a director prior to leaving.
- **Parent Square** messages will be sent about what time to meet the buses when they arrive from out-of-town games or contests.
- More information will be given to students prior to out-of-town games including itineraries.
- **Breaks:** Students are able to visit the concession stand during the 3rd quarter of each football game. They need to bring their own money to pay for what they purchase. Two side-notes: 1) Due to long lines at some stadiums, including ours, you might want to get your student's food for them early so that they don't spend most of the 3rd quarter waiting in line. 2) The 3rd quarter break is at the discretion of the band directors and is not guaranteed.

Front Ensemble and Prop Parents

- The **Front Ensemble and Prop volunteers** help the front ensemble members and directors move all of the props and equipment on and off the field during football games and contests.
- Consistency helps here because if you volunteer to help move the equipment the process becomes quick and efficient. You may even be assigned a piece of equipment to move each game or contest.
- You can sign up with the Band Boosters who will communicate with directors to assign times to be ready and equipment to move.

SHOE CREW (UNIFORM COMMITTEE)

- The **shoe crew** helps clean off last minute dust and dirt from band students' shoes just prior to entering the field for marching contests.
- Let a band parent officer know if you'd like to help!
- We also need volunteers in the fall to help measure, alter and repair band uniforms. If you can handle a needle and thread, please volunteer! Contact Ms. Amanda if you would like to help with this.

PICTURES

- During summer band (see website for dates), band group and individual pictures are taken. Some photos of the band are often featured in the athletics program at Home football games.
- Casey Oliver takes the photos and offers a variety of packages for purchase. The directors will send home paperwork for ordering.
- You can also purchase space in the Football Program for a picture of your student if they are a senior. Contact the Athletic Booster Club for information.

SHOWCASE

- Each year, toward the end of summer band, the parents are invited to **Showcase**, hosted by the City View Band Parents. During Showcase you can:
 - See what your student has been working on during summer band!
 - Watch a segment of the new marching show!
 - Join the City View Band Parents Association
 - Sign up to work concessions stands and for other volunteer duties.
 - Showcase date and time will be posted on the website.

TRIPS/COMPETITIONS

- Major trips are taken at the discretion of the directors, typically every 4 to 5 years. In the past, the band has traveled to Branson, MO, but would like to travel to other areas in the country if possible.
- Band students are required to pay their own way for the trip, and they do so through fundraising. The more you fundraise the less you pay out of pocket. Parents are welcome and must pay their own way as well.
- Seating on the buses is sometimes available for parents but not guaranteed, so please plan to provide your own transportation.
- Yearly Extra Spring Trips- Typically each band goes on a trip in the spring. High School and Jr. High may travel to Dallas for a performance coupled with a fun activity. The beginner band stays in Wichita Falls and has normally gone to Urban Air or Bowling. These trips sometimes require a parent signed liability waiver sent home no later than 2 weeks prior to the event.
- All trips require an email from parents to directors if the parent wants to check out/pick up a student from said event.
- All trip rules and expectations fall under Band AND City View ISD handbook guidelines.

HOMECOMING and SENIOR NIGHT

- The Band plays at Halftime and often do pregame ceremonies for the homecoming court.
- Band members are allowed to wear homecoming mums/garters during the game on their uniforms as long as they are not pinned to the uniform. They must be removed prior to any performance, but may be worn in the stands.

CONTESTS, PERFORMANCES, CONCERTS

- Parents, grandparents, siblings, and friends are invited to attend all contests, performances, and contests.
- Feel free to cheer and clap at all marching contests and performances! There are times when the audience may be asked to hold their applause and please do not interrupt during a performance, but when it's time to celebrate, show that **CITY VIEW MUSTANG PRIDE!**
- Try to wear your **CITY VIEW SPIRIT** gear, **BLUE** or purchase a **Program Shirt** and sit with your fellow band parents at contests. Feel free to make **signs**, shake **pom poms**, bring **noise makers**, and **paint/decorate** your vehicle, anything to show your **support** and **spirit!** contd..
- At marching contests, there will be vendors selling T-shirts, lapel pins, buttons, etc. Band directors will purchase patches for students.
- There are 2-3 marching contests each year they are included on the band calender, every year we attend the UIL **Region** Marching Contest (typically held at Memorial Stadium in Wichita Falls), and the UIL **Area** Contest typically in Denton. An admission fee is charged at these venues. Dates will be posted on the website.

BAND BANQUET (HS ONLY)

- The band banquet is held each May.
- Parents and students are invited. Band students are free of charge, but if they bring a date that is not a band member, they will need to purchase a ticket for their date. Parents must purchase tickets.
- We need lots of volunteers to help with decorating, preparing awards, arranging catering, setting up and cleaning up, etc. Please contact a band parent officer if you are interested in helping out.
- A dance is usually held for the students in the HS band hall following the banquet. Parents will be asked to assist the directors with chaperone duties.
- City View Band Parents offer Scholarship money. Please see the directors for details.

We know we haven't answered all of your questions, so as additional questions arise, please feel free to contact any of the board members or directors. All contact information for each individual is on the website. Again, welcome to the City View Band Family! We are looking forward to a great year! Go Chargin' Thunderin' Mustang Band!!!

Musically Yours,

The City View Band Staff

-Branson Spencer

-Chris Ward

-Cierra Wickline

-Amanda Milbern