



RAY D. CORBETT
JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Mustang Band Handbook

2020-2021

Updated August 10th, 2020

Dear Corbett Mustang Band Parents and Students,

This handbook is intended to keep everyone on the same page in terms of class expectations, rules, procedures, etc. It contains a wide variety of information--from instrument rental to clearly-defined classroom rules and procedures. While we realize that each student is unique, we must also recognize that the band encompasses a very large group of students. Therefore, we work toward the common good of the group.

Please take time to thoroughly read this handbook!

CORBETT JHS MUSTANG BAND

MISSION STATEMENT

We explore the essential elements of musicianship to develop a foundation of excellence in music. We stand for complete commitment, cooperation, and responsibility in order to achieve new levels of musical excellence. While maintaining respect for each individual, we will continue to build personal pride and integrity through performance, thus enhancing the enrichment of the organization, ultimately developing the skills necessary for success in band and in life.



Ray D. Corbett Junior High School

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Corbett Mustang Band Information

The Corbett Mustang Band Program provides **ALL** members the necessary knowledge and skills to excel as young musicians. Each band follows the required curriculum and expectations outlined by the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) as well as the University of Interscholastic League (UIL).

Throughout the year, **ALL** members have the opportunity to participate in Region Band Auditions, UIL Concert and Sight-Reading Competition, Solo and Ensemble Contest, as well as numerous concerts throughout the school year.

ALL students **MUST** be passing their classes in order to participate in any UIL events. Students must exhibit good citizenship and character and be in good standing with their teachers.

Mustang Varsity

The Mustang Varsity Band is composed of primarily 8th grade musicians, with a limited amount of 7th graders. The Mustang Varsity Band is presented challenging music that allows the students' technical and musical abilities to grow. In addition, ensemble skills are taught to build individual proficiency. The Mustang Varsity Band reads at a Grade 2 and Grade 3 music level and competes in the UIL Concert and Sightreading Evaluation.

Mustang Symphonic, Concert, and Intermediate Bands

The Mustang Symphonic, Concert, and Intermediate Bands are composed of both 7th and 8th grade musicians of varying talent and abilities. All bands are presented with challenging music that allows the students' technical and musical abilities to grow. In addition, ensemble skills are taught to build individual proficiency. The Mustang Symphonic, Concert, and Intermediate Bands read at a Grade 1 and Grade 2 music level and compete in the UIL Concert and Sightreading Evaluation.

Mustang Red Band

The Mustang Red band is composed primarily of 7th grade musicians and are structured to provide additional support and remediation. The Red Band focuses primarily on individual proficiency.

Objectives

1. To develop the skills necessary to participate successfully in the Corbett Junior High School Band.
2. To become aware of and fulfill personal responsibilities to further the mutual benefit of both the organization and the individual band member. When all individuals contribute in a positive way, the group is successful.
3. To have a satisfying musical experience. The amount of fun you have with music equals the amount of enthusiasm and hard work you put into band class.
4. To learn proper decorum. Corbett band members are known for their good behavior at school and away. We always strive for proper conduct and courtesy in rehearsals and performances both on and off campus.

Classroom Rules and Expectations

All students are expected to be "self-managers" as they abide by all band rules at all times. When a student chooses to misbehave and has to be reprimanded, it prevents other students from learning. Therefore, appropriate classroom behavior is of the utmost importance. Student conduct and behavioral expectations will be explained on the first day of school. Misbehavior will be handled appropriately according to school and district procedures.

In general, consequences include a discussion with the student, communication with the parents, lunch or after school detention, a scheduled parent/teacher conference, and finally, a referral to the Vice-Principal. Severe infractions are immediately referred to the Vice-Principal.

The classroom rules are as follows:

1. Bring your instrument, band binder, music, and pencil to class **every day**.
2. Enter Band Hall with a positive attitude.
3. Prepare for class **silently and quickly**.
4. Be seated or in position before the tardy bell rings.
5. Remain seated or in position and silent during instruction.
6. The Band Hall is a gum, food, and drink-free environment.
7. Treat others, the Band Hall, and all property with respect.
8. Practice, practice, and practice! ☺
9. Only percussion students may touch or handle percussion equipment. **All other students are not to touch, move, play, or pretend to play any percussion equipment.**
10. Students are not allowed in the Band Office or Band Library without Mr. Barker's or Mrs. Hefel permission. A student must have permission from Mr. Barker or Mrs. Hefel's to use the phone.

11. Non-band students are not allowed in the Band Hall or allowed to handle a band student's instrument.
12. Consequences will adhere to the Corbett Junior High Behavioral Policy.

Consequences Include:

1. Verbal warning/clarification of problem
2. Pack up equipment and complete alternate assignment for daily grade
3. Student Conference before or after class
4. Parental phone contact and/or parent/teacher conference
5. Lunch Detention
6. Administrative Referral
7. Removal from the Band Program

What will my child learn? (Curriculum)

The goal of the Mustang Band program is two-fold. First, it is our goal to teach each student to be an individual and discerning musician. This prepares them for the Clemens High School band program. It also allows them to develop a deeper commitment to and appreciation for music in their adult lives.

Secondly, it is the goal of the Mustang Band program to prepare students for a successful future in any field. Self-management, responsibility, and commitment are prerequisites to life-long achievement.

The students will be taught the following:

1. Basics of musicianship (reading music, music theory, expression, tuning, etc.)
2. Performance techniques (Region Band, UIL Concert & Sight Reading, Solo & Ensemble)
3. Instrumental technique for their particular instrument (tone quality, articulations, tuning, fingerings, proper posture and carriage, etc.)

What will my child do every day? (Classroom Procedures)

- Regard and respect the class rules as posted.
- Listen to announcements or reminders from Mr. Barker or Mrs. Hefel.
- Begin playing only when Mr. Barker or Mrs. Hefel instructs the class to do so.
- Warm-up as a group, including:
 - Daily Music Theory Drill
 - Mouthpiece exercises (buzzing for brass)
 - Long tones
 - Scales
 - Sight-Reading
 - Tuning
- Rehearse as a group, including:
 - Concert Music
 - Method Book Exercises
 - Region Band Music
 - Solo and Ensemble Music

Grades

Please view the SCUC District Grading Guidelines.

Examples of Assessment Performance Grades SUMMATIVE (50%):

Written and Performance Exams (In Class & Public Performances)

Mid-Term Examinations

Region Audition Material
Concert and Sight Reading Evaluations, etc...
Smart Music

Examples of Class Work and Homework Grade FORMATIVE (50%):

Daily/Weekly Participation
Rehearsal Etiquette
Homework, etc.
Smart Music

Excuse Policy

Missing a test, extra rehearsal, or almost anything else (except concerts, which cannot be redone) may be made up if the student brings a parent-signed note immediately when he/she returns to the band. Please make all attempts to inform Mr. Barker or Mrs. Hefel as soon as a scheduling conflict arises.

Instrument Repair

If a student's instrument is in the shop for repairs, that student must make every effort to make up all playing assignments once the instrument is repaired. Please bring a note, signed by a parent, to class when an instrument has been taken in for repairs. Instrument repairs, in most cases, should be ready within one week. Before an instrument is taken to the shop, please allow Mr. Barker or Mrs. Hefel the opportunity to look at the instrument in the case he or she may be able to fix it.

Contest and Eligibility

What is UIL?

The Music Program of the University Interscholastic League (UIL) is designed to support and enrich the teaching of music as an integral component of the public school curriculum in the state of Texas. UIL Concert and Sight Reading Evaluation is an opportunity for band programs across the state of Texas to demonstrate their skills and ability levels. The UIL Concert portion consists of a performance of three pieces; two music selections from the Prescribed Music List (PML) for Music UIL events and a march selected by the director. The Sight Reading portion consists of the director teaching a new piece of music to the band in seven minutes. The students and director have never seen or heard this piece of music and the director is limited to what he/she can say during the explanation period. After the seven-minute explanation, the students will perform the piece for the judges. Each performing group is rated by renowned judges in both concert and sight-reading. Ratings range from a Division I (Superior) to a Division V (Poor). Each year approximately 1.5 million middle school, junior high and high school students reap the benefits of participation in the ten UIL music events. Please visit <http://www.uil texas.org/music> for further information concerning the UIL process.

What are Region Band Auditions?

All members of the Corbett Band program are highly encouraged to participate in the Texas Music Educator's Association All Region Band auditions usually held during the fall semester. Participation by all Varsity Band members at this event is HIGHLY ENCOURAGED! This event is a competition involving students from other area schools in which the highest-ranking players are chosen and perform in a concert after rehearsing with a prominent director. Selection to any of these fine organizations is a high honor deserving of special recognition. Any student selected is required to attend the scheduled rehearsals and is expected to maintain eligibility.

What is Solo and Ensemble Contest?

All members of the Corbett band program are expected to participate in the annual Solo and Ensemble Contest. This event is considered the "Spring Project" for each band member and is graded accordingly as

a major grade. Director-approved solos and ensembles are prepared by students and performed for evaluation and positive constructive comments.

Private Lessons

Even though the students play their instruments every day during class, there is no substitution for one-on-one training. Those students participating in private instruction are the most successful among their peers. While not mandatory, it is **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED** for every student to take private lessons.

Professionals specializing in particular instruments give lessons once a week. Prices vary among teachers but most charge on a "per lesson" basis. Lesson times and payment are set up between the parent and lesson teacher.

I am still in the process of confirming lesson teachers for the 2020-21 school year. Please check my website at www.scuc.txed.net/webpages/cbarker/ for further information about private lessons. I will hopefully have an updated private lesson instructor list by the fourth week of school.

School Owned Instruments

A limited number of school-owned instruments are available to students who have been chosen to play that specific instrument. This includes oboe, bassoon, baritone, French horn, and tuba. It is the student's responsibility to provide his/her own mouthpiece, reeds, valve oil, cleaning kits, or any other materials necessary for playing or maintaining the instrument.

THERE IS A \$80.00 USAGE FEE FOR ALL SCHOOL-OWNED INSTRUMENTS.

All payments can be made online through my school bucks.

The purpose of this fee is to ensure that each instrument is maintained. All repairs due to abuse or neglect are the responsibility of the student.

Lockers

Each student will receive a locker with a school-provided lock. Please do not send your child with a different lock. Combinations are kept confidential at all times. A master key is available to open locks in the event that a student forgets his/her combination. Lockers are strictly for instruments, band folders/binders, method books, and any instrument accessories.

Uniforms

For UIL Concert and Sight-Reading Contest as well as numerous performances throughout the school year, the students will wear a formal band uniform. The uniform consists of black tuxedo pants, a white button down shirt, and a red or black cummerbund. The school provides the uniform to the student. Students are expected to provide black dress shoes and black socks (black hose for girls). For safety reasons, girl's shoes should have low to medium heels. Band spirit t-shirts will be available to purchase at the beginning of the year.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us!

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