

SAMUEL CLEMENS BAND

STUDENT/PARENT HANDBOOK

**CONGRATULATIONS on your decision to be a part of the fine tradition of the
SAMUEL CLEMENS HIGH SCHOOL MIGHTY BUFFALO BAND!**

This document is designed as an addendum of the SCUCISD High School Band Handbook for parents and students. It includes specific details concerning all aspects of the Clemens Band program, including the Color Guard (Flags). The Color Guard will also have its own specific Clemens Constitution and Rules in addition to the Band. Every effort has been made to make this handbook as complete as possible, however the Band Director and/or school administration have the right to make revisions during the school year. All information in this handbook is in addition to the district-wide high school Band Handbook and is superseded by SCUCISD school board, district administration, and campus administration policy.

SAMUEL CLEMENS BAND STAFF

Matt Boening – Director of Bands - mboening@scuc.txed.net

Zack Serrato – Assistant Director of Bands - zserrato@scuc.txed.net

Mr. Rob Wheeler – Assistant Director of Bands/Percussion Specialist - rwheeler@scuc.txed.net

Mr. Corey Barker – Assistant Director of Bands (Head Director, Corbett Jr. High - cbarker@scuc.txed.net

TBA – Assistant Director of Bands (Assistant Director, Corbett Jr. High) - TBA

Ms. Courtney Edwards – Assistant Director of Bands (Director, Wilder Int. School) - cedwards@scuc.txed.net

Ms. Christina Caro – Color Guard Sponsor--- cmcaro@scuc.txed.net

MISSION STATEMENT

The Samuel Clemens High School Band will encourage and educate students to become the best individuals possible, while developing a deep appreciation and life-long passion for music. In addition, the program will continue to represent and reflect the positive values of our community through the involvement of musically literate and performance proficient students.

COMMUNICATION GUIDE

Good communication is *vital* to the success of the Clemens Band! Listed below are several important ways in which we communicate:

Band App – New for 2021!! This is our primary method of communication! All students and at least one parent/guardian should join using this link: <https://band.us/n/afa853212702G>. Once you've successfully

joined, make sure to allow notifications. In addition to regular communication and updates, you will also be able to access the Clemens Band Calendar through the Band App.

Website – Mr. Boening’s website (<https://www.scuc.txed.net/Domain/4590>) contains some important documents, links, and other information. Most importantly, it is another place to access the Clemens Band Calendar.

Social Media – In addition the Band App, we utilize Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook. The feeds are generally identical, so feel free to follow us on your preferred platform:

- Instagram - mightybuffband
- Twitter - @MightyBuffBand
- Facebook – Samuel Clemens High School Mighty Buffalo Band

CONCERT BANDS

There are several concert bands at Samuel Clemens High School. Students are placed in a concert band according to their playing ability, attitude, participation, eligibility, and instrumentation needs. Students may move from band to band as deemed necessary or appropriate. The concert bands provide for a wide range of playing abilities and time commitments. Additional rehearsal expectations and membership requirements are noted in the following descriptors. The director of each ensemble will provide detailed information regarding these expectations at beginning of the spring semester.

Wind Ensemble – Director, Mr. Matt Boening

The Wind Ensemble is the Varsity performing group within the Samuel Clemens Band program. This band performs collegiate level literature and performs numerous concerts during the year. Wind Ensemble students are highly encouraged to audition for District Band and participate in U.I.L. Solo & Ensemble Contests. Members of the Wind Ensemble are expected to participate in the private lesson program. These students are very serious about improving their musical abilities; therefore, most of these students have invested in professional quality musical instruments. The Wind Ensemble performs at UIL Concert & Sight Reading Evaluation, all Clemens Band Concerts, as well as other special programs that come up throughout the year. In the Spring Semester, daily rehearsals will begin at 8:00 A.M., and there will be once-a-week afternoon/evening rehearsals.

Symphonic Band – Director, Mr. Zack Serrato

The Symphonic Band is the second level concert band at Samuel Clemens High School. This band performs upper-level high school concert band literature. Symphonic Band students are highly encouraged to audition for District Band and participate in U.I.L. Solo & Ensemble Contests. Symphonic Band students are required to attend sectionals outside of school time once per week. A majority of Symphonic Band members have invested in a professional quality instruments and participate in the private lesson program. The Symphonic Band performs at UIL Concert & Sight Reading Evaluation and all Clemens Band Concerts.

Concert Band – Director, Mr. Rob Wheeler

The Concert Band is the third level concert band at Samuel Clemens High School. This band performs high school level concert band literature. Concert Band students may be required to attend sectionals outside of school time each week. Students are highly encouraged to audition for District Band and participate in U.I.L. Solo and Ensemble contests. Students are also highly encouraged to participate in the private lesson program. The Concert Band performs at UIL Concert & Sight Reading Evaluation and all Clemens Band Concerts.

Cadet Band – Director, Mr. Matt Boening

The Cadet Band performs high school level concert band literature. The primary emphasis of this band is to focus on the development of fundamental technique and ensemble skills. There may be outside-of-school sectionals required of students in this band. Members of this band are highly encouraged to participate in the private lesson program. The Cadet Band performs on the majority of Clemens Band concerts including the pre-U.I.L. concert. Participation in the UIL Concert & Sight Reading Contest will be determined by the directors on a year-to-year basis. For many students, this ensemble serves as a preparation for higher-level bands.

GRADING POLICY

The Clemens Band staff utilizes the SCUC ISD policy on grading. Please view the District's Grading Guidelines in the most current Student Handbook for details.

Grading in Band is based upon participation, attitude, and performance (both by tests through assessment of playing skills and by public performances). Grades for Band students are usually higher than the norm. This is understandable with the exceptional quality of students we have in the Band.

Band students receive a major grade of "100" for participation and performance -- example: football games, concerts, competitions, etc. The remainder of the grade is derived from prepared and active participation in rehearsals, sectionals, and playing tests. Grades are affected by absences and tardiness to any event, including rehearsals, "run-throughs", and performances.

PARTICIPATION EXPECTATIONS

To assist Band members in planning and scheduling, the Band calendar will be given to every band member. In addition, parents and students can go Mr. Boening's website or the Band App to see the calendar at any time. Band members will be given advance notice of any changes in the monthly calendar. Band members are solely responsible for being familiar with the calendar and attending all scheduled Band functions.

Because the Clemens Band functions as a "team" and counts on each member, each member's prompt attendance at all Band functions is crucial to the success of the Band. Each Band member is responsible to be in the required location, properly attired (in the full proper uniform as required), with his or her instrument and all necessary music, equipment, etc. at or before the appointed time and in sufficient time to answer Roll Call.

Absence from or tardiness to a Band function, particularly a rehearsal, sectional or performance, may subject the member to the lowering of the member's grade or loss of spot or chair for a first occurrence. A member's work/ employment, club meetings, or other rehearsals are NOT an excuse for absence from or tardiness to a Band function. Elective doctor's appointments are to be scheduled at times other than when band has rehearsals.

The nature of the activity is such that no amount of individual effort can substitute for group participation. Any absence, whether due to illness or other circumstance, is impossible to make up. Therefore, students who miss rehearsal repeatedly, regardless of the reason, compromise the progress of the group and cannot be allowed to continue to participate.

It is also important to carefully select dates for SAT, PSAT, and ACT testing that do not occur during scheduled Band events.

CLEMENS BAND UNIFORM AND APPEARANCE RULES

We have beautiful uniforms that need to be well taken care of during the year. Pride in our organization is an attitude that develops success!

UNIFORM CHECK-OUT (concert & marching)

1. Samuel Clemens Band uniforms are the property of SCUC ISD. Your band uniform should be kept clean at all times.
2. The concert uniforms may need to be altered when they are issued to you. **Do not** cut any material when altering the length of a uniform.
3. Clean black marching shoes and plain, long black socks are to be worn with the marching uniform at all times. For the concert uniform, closed-toe formal shoes are required for ladies, and black dress shoes and long black socks are required for gentlemen.
4. Always wear your current Clemens Band t-shirt and light-weight shorts with your marching uniform, and gentlemen should wear a plain white undershirt with their concert uniform.
5. Remove all jewelry and put it away before you put your uniform on. Only small stud earrings are allowed in uniform.
6. When hats are worn, long hair must be pinned up. There should be no hair hanging down past the collar. Without the hat, hair must still be worn off of the collar with a ponytail holder that matches the color of your hair.
7. Shoes should be cleaned before EACH performance.
8. No food or drink is allowed to be consumed in uniform unless it is provided or allowed by band staff or chaperones.

INSPECTION

Prior to ROLL CALL for all Band functions, members must be dressed in the complete announced uniform in accordance with the Clemens Band Uniform and Appearance Rules. Inspections are held before boarding buses and at performance sites. If any failure to comply with the Uniform Policies or failure to have the proper instrument, equipment and music cannot be corrected prior to boarding buses or a performance, the member **WILL NOT PARTICIPATE** in that Band function, and may be subject to further discipline.

BAND TRIPS

Every student has the opportunity to participate when the entire Band program attends a major trip (generally every four years), usually performing in concerts and/or competitions. *There may be other qualifying requirements set by the Directors, campus administration or district administration such as past discipline record, payment of Band fees, etc.*