

CROSBY HIGH SCHOOL BAND MEMBER HANDBOOK *2011-2012*

“THE BIG RED MACHINE”



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Marching "Big Red Machine" ● Symphonic Band ● Concert Band ● Jazz Ensemble

Member name: _____

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Purpose of Handbook:

This handbook describes the Crosby High School Band Program and its policies, rules, and regulations.

Band members are required to follow the policies set forth in the handbook at all times that a member is directly or indirectly involved in any activity sponsored by or in the name of Crosby High School. Crosby ISD policies shall have priority over band policy in the event of any policy conflict.

The band directors shall have authority to suspend or amend any band policy at any time deemed necessary in the best interest and safety of the overall band program.

To All New and Veteran Band Members of the Big Red Machine,

Welcome to another great season with the band program at Crosby High School,
Home of the Cougars.

The CHS *Big Red Machine* is a group of highly dedicated musicians. Our tradition of excellence has been passed down by musicians like yourself since our beginnings, and it is our hope that returning members will strive to maintain these ideals while new members strive to learn them.

The *Big Red Machine* has established itself as one of the finest bands in Southeast Texas. Our program has a proud heritage that can only continue based on YOUR dedication and level of commitment in this organization. This band is truly yours!

How do I succeed in this great program?

- Come to band
- Bring what you need
- Practice at home and learn the materials
- Ask questions... we are here for you!
- Make life-long friendships
- Enjoy what you do!!

It's really that simple. Levels of marching and playing ability is not mentioned above. Neither is the idea of winning competitions and "beating other bands."

You will succeed in this program if you enjoy being a musician to the fullest. You must respect the Directors, the parent volunteers, your Leadership, and each other. That is all that is required for success.

"Music is not an art for the chicken-hearted. Seek what is right...and do not be afraid to be wrong!"

-Frederick Fennell

To the Parents

Welcome to one of the most exciting organizations available to your student in their high school (and collegiate) experience.

The band program at the Crosby High School offers many varied performance opportunities and gives members the chance to learn with each other and grow closer to one another. We strive to offer the best available instruction and the widest array of events for our members.

We strongly believe that there is a place for everyone in the band. Our success depends largely on your support and dedication to our common goals. If you choose to participate, you can reap a variety of rewards and help support your children's education.

The band program at CHS has established itself as one of the finest anywhere, with superb performing ensembles in marching, concert band, and jazz activities.

We hope that you share our excitement in creating these phenomenal opportunities for the students. We encourage parents to be active supporters of our efforts through booster club participation (**Crosby Band Boosters**), assistance in fundraising, and through volunteer work such as chaperones, equipment crew, or as a parent leader. We also hope that you will be visible supporters of the students by attending as many performances as possible.

This handbook should help orient you and your student to the many different aspects of the CHS band program. We welcome your attendance at band parent meetings.

Feel free to call any director or elected band parent officer for help and remember to come to the meetings to get the latest information about each event.

On behalf of all Crosby ISD Music Directors & Staff,

Kevin M. Knight
Director of Bands

Jason Finnels
Assistant Director

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

The student bandleaders are the best students at CHS. They go through a training process and put a lot of time, effort, and heart into this band family. All leaders are expected to set a good example musically, by working the hardest on their musicality, taking private lessons if possible and doing everything they can to become the best musician possible.

All leaders should be the first ones at rehearsals and the last ones to leave. There is a lot of extra time involved in being a good leader, but also a lot of extra reward and respect.

Drum Major(s): In addition to conducting the music and calling all commands in the field show, the drum major is the primary leader in the band. He or she is the Section Leaders' Section Leader. Drum Majors are selected by the directors each year after a rigorous training and audition process.

Section Leaders: These leaders (chosen objectively by Directors) are responsible for their specific instrument section. They learn everyone's part, call sectionals regularly, and help everyone with their music and marching technique. During rehearsals, they correct problems in a quiet and non-disruptive way. They constructively maintain discipline in rehearsal and report any problems to the drum major or band director for disciplinary action.

Load Crew: Handle's everything to do with the band's equipment. They help load equipment on the truck or busses for trips. They work with the field managers to make sure all equipment gets to the field before rehearsal (podium, Long Ranger, etc.). They help keep the band room clean by straightening out the chairs and stands after every rehearsal, and throwing away trash. **They do the jobs that everyone should be doing anyways.**

Secretaries & Music Librarians: Maintain and organize the music library, type forms, maintain important band databases, copy parts for all the music we play, provide replacement copies to people who lose them, check out original parts for solo/ensemble festival. There are certain times when the librarians need to be in the band room a lot longer than other band members. They will need to come in over the summer to copy stands music, and they often stay after school or after rehearsal to copy or file music.

SECTIONALS

Additional rehearsals after school devoted to just a member's particular section is highly recommended. These will be posted visibly with ample time to plan. We will work with your schedule. We are all busy. **Sectionals are mandatory, for a grade, unless otherwise noted.**

EXTRA REHEARSALS

Each marching season typically lends itself to **1-3 extra rehearsals (Saturday) in the months of September and October.** These are critical, fun, and allow us to slow down the pace a bit.

SPECIAL EVENTS

From time to time, special events may arise in addition to school ball games, contests, parades, concerts, and other such appearances. Participation in special events not previously scheduled will be at the discretion of the band director and school officials. It is the policy of the band to cooperate as much as possible with special requests for performances, although not all events are feasible for the band.

TRAVEL/TRIPS !!!!! ☺

The band takes several bus trips through the year. Band members are usually permitted to bring small coolers, snacks, videos, CD's, blankets, and pillows on the longer bus trips. Quite often band parents donate snacks and drinks for the trips in addition to items that students bring. You will be notified if spending money is needed for additional meals for longer trips. You will receive itineraries with times, locations, and phone numbers for longer bus trips. **All members must complete medical and travel update forms each year.**

On all trips, Crosby High School band members will follow all Crosby ISD student polices, Crosby High School policies, and CHS Band policies; Such as, but not limited to:

Dress code, substance abuse, respect of all teachers and volunteers, professional representation of the school...

Abuse of these noted policies will result in immediate disciplinary action.

FALL SEASONAL REHEARSALS

Monday: 5:00-8:00pm
 Wednesday: 6th period-4:30pm
 Thurs: 3:45-5:45pm
 Friday: TBA Game Day! ☺



CHS Band Fall Dates for 2011-2012

Calendar subject to change based on UIL or Crosby ISD policy.

| | |
|-------------|--|
| July 21-25 | Leadership Retreat @ Crosby/San Antonio |
| August 1 | Summer Band Camps begin |
| August 30 | Community Pep Rally TBA |
| October 1 | Saturday Marching Rehearsal @ CHS. 7:00am-2:00pm TBA |
| October 8 | Pre-UIL Contest @ Galena Park |
| October 15 | UIL Marching Contest @ Galena Park |
| October 22 | Area Marching Contest @ Galena Park TBA |
| November 5 | Marching Competition TBA |
| December 3 | HS All-Region Tryouts |
| December | TBA Christmas Parade @ Loop |
| December 13 | HS Christmas Concert – Crosby High School |
| January 6-7 | HS Area tryouts – Location TBA |
| February 25 | HS Solo & Ensemble – Memorial HS |
| April 10 HS | Concert UIL Festival – Kingwood Park HS |
| May 2-6 | TBA California Trip! |
| May 22 | HS Spring Concert |

2011 Football Schedule

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Opponent Site</u> | <u>Time</u> |
|-------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| Aug 26 | Montgomery @ Mont | 7:00 |
| Sept 2 | Port Neches-Grove CHS | 7:00 |
| Sept 9 | Pearland Dawson @Pearland | 7:00 |
| Sept 16 | Bye | |
| Sept 23 | Baytown Lee Crosby | 7:00 |
| Sept 30 | North Forest @ N.F. | 7:00 |
| Oct 7 | CE King CHS | 7:00 |
| Oct 14 | Galena Park @ Galena | 7:00 |
| Oct 21 | Goose Creek Mem. CHS | 7:00 |
| Oct 28 | Dayton CHS | 7:00 |
| Nov 4 | Barbers Hill @ B.Hill | 7:00 |

Leave the next few Fridays and Saturdays open for possible playoff games.

Band Booster Meetings

Band Boosters meet the 2nd Tuesday of every month. Take an active part in your music family through the band boosters. Items discussed are fundraisers, trips, chaperones, and various other ways to help your children succeed.

ATTENDANCE AND GRADING POLICY

- Your band grade is based on the work you do in class and after school.
- Unexcused absences will negatively affect grades. Greatly.
- “You can’t team em’ if they ain’t there!” You cannot learn and the band cannot function with missing members. You know this.
- Students are required to have their instrument and materials in working conditions every day. This also factors into the grade.
- **Missing music, instrument, mutes, reeds, supplies... will hurt your grade.**

Grades will be based on your performance in the following areas

| | |
|---|-------|
| Attendance at rehearsals & events | (50%) |
| Music pass off quizzes | (20%) |
| Daily preparation, performance, and participation | (15%) |
| Written quizzes | (15%) |

Missing a concert/performance: Automatic letter grade drop.

Come to band. Respect your Leaders. Work hard. Have fun. = Get an A.

Missing Rehearsal

Appointments, work, and vacations should be scheduled around band rehearsals, performances, and activities. These are not valid excuses. With proper planning, conflicts with other events can be avoided and **need to be discussed in advance. We will work with you, but you must talk with the band directors in advance.**

*10 minutes Early = being on time.
This is a life lesson.*

The only **truly excusable** absences from band practice or performances are those recognized by Crosby ISD for normal attendance purposes (severe illness, death in immediate family, religious holiday, etc.)

Sports/Other Important Activities

High school is a time where you should be allowed to pursue all things that interest you. However, it is also a time to learn time management. No student will be denied membership in the band program because of interest in other activities, as long as the student meets all requirements of the band program as well.

Get involved! But don't spread yourself too thin.

Remember... Practice makes perfect.... Consistent.

Success on the field, in the stands, and on the stage means practicing at home... away from school. You can only have fun in an ensemble if you play well. Day to day, you must make progress. You can only do this by practicing hard at home. Each semester we must get better as marchers and musicians.

“Practice hard, not hardly at all.”

Uniforms

Band uniforms will be issued to all current marching band members. We have a large stock of uniforms. Uniforms are inventoried, repaired, distributed, and collected by the band parents every season. Take care of these uniforms and respect the hard work that goes into organizing them! All wind and percussion members will wear the same grey BRM t-shirt under their uniform.

Fundraising Opportunities

Fundraisers are a very important part of our band program! They help the band program offset some of costs throughout the school year in addition to providing opportunities for students to offset some of their band fees. Some of the fundraisers directly help the band, some directly help the student and some are split between the band and the student. Please be aware that some fundraisers will be required for all students. It is important that we all pitch and help one another and support the continuation of our program!

Required Instrument Accessories (Minimum)

Woodwinds:

Three (3) working reeds or more

- Rotate between these reeds daily so they are all broken in.
- Vandoren or Mitchell Lurie reeds. *No Rico!!*

Reed Case/ Reed Guard.

Cleaning Swab:

Swab out your instrument after every time you play. It only takes a second!

Flip-Folder and lyre for stands music

Brass:

Valve Oil: Oil valves as needed.

Slide Grease: Grease your slides as need. This is your responsibility!

Cleaning snake

Trombones: Slide Cream/ Water Spray-Bottle

Woodwinds

1. Keep your instruments dry and clean. Bring a *plastic bag to games for this reason.
RAIN = bad.
2. Do not eat before you play. Food in instrument = bad.
3. Again, swab your instruments after every rehearsal
4. Grease your corks so they don't dry out and crack.
5. Check for loose key rod screws and tighten as needed.

Brass

1. Keep your instruments dry and clean (use snake, mouthpiece spray/brush)
2. Don't eat before you play. Food in instrument = bad.
3. **Oil valves as needed!**
4. Give your horn a bath every 2 months.

Percussion

1. Take care of your equipment.
 - a. Do not allow anyone to sit anything on our equipment. EVER.
 - b. Put percussion equipment away safely and securely after each practice.
2. Daily practice at home. Use recordings, practice pad, etc.
3. Notify the director immediately if we need to repair or replace equipment parts.

Band Policies, Rules, Regulations. A quick, common sense guide:

- 1) Crosby ISD school policy is integrated into CHS Band policy at all times, on campus and off.
- 2) Band members are expected to behave properly at all times.
- 3) **Misbehavior anywhere reflects poorly on the band, school, and community.**
- 4) As with school policy: drugs and alcohol are zero-tolerance. You will be arrested and removed from the band program. **Just don't do it.**
- 5) Good judgment must always prevail.
- 6) Do the right things, help your fellow band members out, respect others and you will go far in this program and in life.
- 7) **Consequences for failure to follow rules and policies will include the following:**
 - i) Detention / Band room service (cleaning, paper work, instrument repair)
 - ii) Suspension from performances
 - iii) Loss of performing position at all
 - iv) Removal from band program
 - v) School administrator assigned consequences ... expulsion from school.

Taking care of the Band Room

We have an outstanding band facility at Crosby High School. The band halls' appearance will reflect the pride and spirit that the students have in the band.

Remember always: **ONLY ENROLLED BAND STUDENTS ARE ALLOWED IN THE BAND ROOM.**

Do not eat, drink, or chew gum in the band room, hallways, or practice rooms. Any violations of the above rules, or any acts of vandalism, will result in a disciplinary referral. Take care of your second home.

Please do not enter the Director's office unless he is present.

- Do not sit at my desk.
- Do not stand on my podium.

Do not "hang out" in the band hall if a director/teacher is not present. This is per Crosby ISD policy. **It is not the Director's or Principal's responsibility for student injury or other situations in the event a student was at the school/in the band hall when the Director was not present.**

The band hall will be locked until 30 minutes before an official band activity begins... and will be closed 30 minutes after a rehearsal/event ends.

Cell Telephones/Electronic devices:

As per CHS policy, **mobile phones are not allowed to be used during class or rehearsal.** This is zero-tolerance school policy as well. The cell phones will be taken from you and sent to the guidance counselor for later retrieval by your parent.