COLDSPRING-OAKHURST

 HIGH SCHOOL

TROJAN REGIMENT



HANDBOOK

Trent Graves, Director of Bands

**INTRODUCTION**

COCISD Band Student,

I am pleased that you have chosen to become a part of the Trojan Regiment. Your decision has made you part of one of the most important organizations at Coldspring-Oakhurst CISD.

Your success in band and the ultimate success of the organization are in direct proportion to the amount of pride, desire, and effort you put into the rehearsals and performances of the band. If the band is going to remain successful, every individual must be committed to working toward common goals and must have the best interest of the group at heart.

Many students now and before you have worked hard to establish tradition and excellence for the Trojan Regiment, and we owe it to them to do everything in our power to uphold those standards of performance and perpetuate the Trojan Regiment’s image as being a first-class organization.

Sincerely,

Trent Graves

Director of Bands

Coldspring-Oakhurst CISD

**TROJAN REGIMENT PHILOSOPHY**

The Trojan Regiment is a corpse marching band. We strive for musical excellence, which is the foundation of any indoor or outdoor performing ensemble. In addition to entertainment standards, this philosophy is based on education values and superior musical performance.

Band does more than teach a student how to play an instrument. Within this program, students receive a variety of outstanding qualities such as responsibility, dedication, loyalty, group effort, sense of duty, honesty, dependability, promptness, enthusiasm, initiative, and pride in a job well done.

**MEMBERSHIP**

**1**. Students who have successfully completed the junior high school band program at Coldspring-Oakhurst ISD will be admitted to the Trojan Regiment at the recommendation of the junior high school band director. Recommendations will be based on performance ability, ability to follow instructions, and general attitude.

**2**. Eighth graders who want to participate in high school band must audition before a Coldspring-Oakhurst band director.

**3**. Students moving into COCISD must audition before a COCISD band director.

**4**. Band is a full year course (1st semester—marching band; 2nd semester—concert band).

**5**. A student who quits band may only be readmitted to the program at the director’s discretion.

**6**. Band membership is a prerequisite in order to participate in any jazz band, music technology, or other instrumental ensembles.

**7.** Students will maintain proper discipline and image in all classes and

personal activities.

**DISMISSAL FROM BAND**

A student may be dismissed from the band program due to lack of cooperation, refusal to conform to rules and regulations, a general poor attitude, disrespect to other students or band directors, repeated tardiness, repeated lack of materials, or unexcused absences from a performance, rehearsal, or sectional. Any unexcused absence from a performance is grounds for immediate dismissal from the program. If a student is a continuous disciplinary problem, or lacks the work ethic required, he/she may be permanently removed from the band as determined by the director. Any conduct requiring intervention from a principal, law enforcement, and/or band director may result in removal from the band. Dismissal from band will result in an automatic zero in the student’s grade book for band in that semester.

**FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS**

Students are responsible for returning all school-issued equipment and uniforms.

Replacement values will be assigned for abused or missing items.

The COCISD Band Boosters organize fundraisers to pay for many band activities.

Participation in these activities reflects acceptance of the financial responsibility.

Accounts should be kept current. All debts must be cleared within seven days of

the closing of the fundraiser.

**SYSTEM OF GRADING**

The band grade is determined by general attitude, attendance, participation, and periodic individual auditions/playoffs. Band students are also expected to maintain passing grades in all other courses. Not only does this allow students to participate in UIL events, it is far more important that students establish a habit of responsibility for their academic success. To be in compliance with state law, students who become ineligible are not allowed to perform at events that are competitive or that charge admission. Remember, your success is our primary concern.

**GENERAL REHEARSAL PROCEDURES**

**1**. Always be early and have all items needed for rehearsal. Students should be in chairs, warmed up, and ready to begin as soon as the director approaches the podium. When the director steps on the podium, students will **SILENTLY** look forward, giving him/her their full attention.

**2**. Listen for instructions and act immediately, regardless of location (band hall, practice field, stadium, etc.).

**3**. No candy, gum, cough drops, etc. will be permitted during rehearsals and performances. These items could cause damage to the instruments.

**4.** Cell phones or any other electronic devices are not permitted to be out during rehearsal. Any cell phone will be confiscated.

**5.** If something is wrong with your instrument, let a director know as soon as possible so that it can be repaired before the next rehearsal. Never knowingly arrive at a rehearsal with a broken instrument.

**6.** Practice on your own to ensure that you are prepared for rehearsal. Rehearsal time can be lost when the group is interrupted because individuals do not know their parts.

**7.**  The Trojan Regiment never says anything negative or acts in a negative way toward any other organization, regardless of circumstances.

**8**. Trojan Regiment students always project a positive image toward band.

Band members are encouraged to cultivate an attitude of good discipline and attention during rehearsal. Each rehearsal should be a musical learning experience for each student. The performances will only be as good as the rehearsals. Constant disturbances by any band member in rehearsal shows a lack of interest and respect to the band; therefore, these students will be encouraged to find another activity to hold their attention.

**ATTENDANCE**

**1**. Do not schedule doctor/dentist appointments, etc., during band rehearsal times (unless approved by director). If you do miss a rehearsal, contact another band member or director to find out what you missed.

**2**. If you know you are going to miss rehearsal, always let the band director know **as soon as possible** so that he can prepare for your absence. **COMMUNICATION IS KEY!!**

**3**. Any absence must have a written note from a parent or an admit slip from the office or it will be considered unexcused.

**4**. During marching season, if you are absent, you will be replaced. The band director will explain the methods necessary to return to your previous position.

**5**. During concert season, unexcused or excessive absences may be cause for removal from a student’s primary performing group.

**6**. Work is **not** an excused absence. Make sure that your employer does not schedule you to work at the same time as your rehearsals or performances. Employers must understand that school comes first.

**SUMMER REHEARSAL**

Summer band rehearsals begin with band camp. These rehearsals are of extreme importance to our program and attendance is mandatory. We learn the majority of our contest music and stand tunes at this time, and we also work on marching fundamentals.

This time is extremely important in creating strong unity within our program. This is especially important to all new band students. Absence from this function can result in assignment to a ‘shadow position’ in the band or loss of membership.

After band camp, daily rehearsals will continue at COCISD in order to advance our preparation for marching season. Calendars detailing dates for band camp and rehearsals following band camp will be mailed to the students and posted on the band website.

**MARCHING REHEARSALS**

**1**. Marching rehearsals can be hot! Dress accordingly and do **NOT** be late to rehearsal because you had to change clothes!

**2**. During marching rehearsals, you are required to be on your feet for extended periods of time. Wear comfortable laced tennis shoes or your black marching band shoes. Never wear boots, heels, sandals, or go barefoot while marching.

**3**. If you are absent or tardy during marching rehearsal, you will be replaced and will have to work your way back into position. The band cannot rehearse with empty spots in the show drill.

**4**. Water breaks are usually taken one band section at a time. Do **NOT** disrupt students who are still working. Water will be provided, but students should bring their own water as well (no sodas or sugar-based drinks).

**5**. Students must memorize all music that will be performed on the field.

**6**. Student leaders have been chosen to assist you. They are here to help you with all aspects of membership, teach you how to march properly, and to help you learn your music. The drum majors are the right hand of the director, and they deserve the same respect and authority whether in the presence or absence of the director.

**MARCHING ‘SHADOW’ POSITIONS**

It is the desire of the band department to include all students in every marching performance and every effort will be made to do so. However, since the adoption of the “No Pass, No Play” rule, it has been necessary to chart marching drills for fewer players than are on the roster; therefore, not all students may march in every performance.

Students may be chosen as a ‘shadow’ if they have difficulty in passing all classes, have difficulty marching or playing, have excessive absences/tardiness, or as punishment for behavioral issues. Shadows may earn a spot in the marching drill by demonstrating improvement in marching/playing, maintaining a passing status, good attendance and rehearsal habits, and maintaining a good attitude as positions in the drill become available. Shadows are valuable band members and are expected to participate in all rehearsals and performances as determined by the band director.

**UNIFORM INSPECTION**

Inspection will take place before EVERY football game and contest. Prior to marching into the stands, inspectors will be looking for: tall black socks (no stripes or logos of any kind), black BAND shoes (no other kind), correct pant length neatly pressed uniform, clean gloves and gauntlets, no missing buttons, clean polished instruments, clean helmet, no jewelry or headbands, young men must be clean shaven and hair length should be consistent with COCISD policy.

**ALTERING YOUR UNIFORM**

Only the sleeve length and pant length may be altered. The hem may be taken up or let out to the correct length, BUT NO MATERIAL MAY BE CUT OFF. Most dry-cleaning businesses do alterations. Students are responsible for the cost of any additional alterations to the uniforms beyond what is initially provided. At the discretion of the band director, the school will pay for any MAJOR alterations needed.

**CARING FOR YOUR UNIFORM**

**1**. Students will pay a uniform cleaning fee of $15 at the beginning of the school year during band registration. They are issued clean and need to be cleaned after they are returned for the next year.

**2**. If students want to clean their uniform occasionally during the year, they may do so. They must be sure they return it in a timely fashion in order to be ready for the next performance.

**3**. Have the uniform dry cleaned. NEVER try to wash a uniform at home!!! It must be professionally dry cleaned. Take complete inventory of your uniform before leaving it at any dry cleaning establishment.

**FOOTBALL GAMES**

ATTENDANCE AT ALL GAMES IS MANDATORY, INCLUDING PLAYOFF GAMES. THE BAND DIRECTOR WILL PERSONALLY HANDLE ALL CASES OF MISSED GAMES. ANY STUDENT WITH AN UNEXCUSED ABSENCE FROM ANY PERFORMANCE WILL AUTOMATICALLY BE REMOVED FROM THE MARCHING BAND PERMANENTLY, OR FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE SEASON, AT THE DISCRECTION OF THE BAND DIRECTOR. STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO STAY FOR THE ENTIRE LENGTH OF THE GAME.

**DURING THE GAME**

**1**. You are performing as soon as you enter the stadium. People are watching you; therefore, image is important.

**2**. You will be assigned a spot in the stadium. You will remain in your assigned area during the game.

**3**. When the band plays, everyone is expected to play. Always be ready to do your job.

**4**. Support the team, but do not be obnoxious or embarrass yourself or the band.

**5**. There are no soft drinks allowed in the stands, except during a third quarter break (when permitted).

**6**. If given a break during the third quarter, do not be late returning or you will lose this privilege.

**7**. Stay in complete uniform unless otherwise directed. All buttons should be buttoned, unless otherwise directed. Never wear bandanas, caps, or any footwear besides the approved black shoes.

**8.**  Cell phones and other electronics are not permitted in the stands during games except during third quarter break when permitted.

**9**. You may ride home with your parents from out-of-town games, if they are present after the game for the band director to release you to them. The student must turn in an Alternative Transportation form to the bans director 48 hours before it is needed.

**BUS AND TRAVEL GUIDELINES**

**1**. Follow all instructions given.

**2**. Hang your uniform up or lay it flat in a seat.

**3**. Stay seated while the bus is moving.

**4**. Keep hands, arms, and head inside the windows. On chartered buses, do not open any windows.

**5**. Small mp3 players, ipods, and cell phones used for music are permissible only with headphones or earbuds, and the volume must be turned down so that only the user can hear it. COCISD is not responsible for any personal belongings if they are stolen, lost, etc.

**6**. No singing, yelling, or cheering is allowed on the bus. Save it for the stands and pep rallies.

**7**. Follow district policy regarding food and drinks on the bus.

**8**. The Trojan Regiment always conducts itself as a first-class organization, especially when traveling. No immature or childish behavior will be tolerated in restaurants, hotels, buses, etc.

**9**. When eating in cafeterias/restaurants, band students should always be courteous and respectful to all cafeteria/restaurant staff. All students are expected to clean up after themselves.

**BAND SOLO AND ENSEMBLE GUIDELINES**

**GENERAL**

According to UIL rules, students cannot be entered in more than two events. There are a few exceptions (see band director for clarification).

**ENSEMBLES**

This unique opportunity allows students to work in smaller group settings, which also promotes more accountability for each person. Futhermore, directors are able to focus on individual’s strengths and weaknesses in order to assist each student more effectively. All students will be assigned to an ensemble as a mandatory assignment for the major test grade in that grading period.

**SOLO**

This opportunity allows students to showcase their individual talents in a performance setting accompanied by a pianist. Solos are not required but highly encouraged. Once a student commits to performing a solo, he/she is expected to adequately prepare for the performance and take the commitment seriously. Directors will be available for individual instruction.

Our goal is to issue solos before the Christmas holidays. If a student chooses to acquire their own accompanist, they are responsible for getting a copy of their piano part, scheduling their own practices with the pianist, and scheduling sessions to have a director listen to them perform with the accompanist before the contest. The student is also responsible for their accompanist’s fee. All students must be heard and approved by a director before performing their solo at contest.

**LETTER JACKET POLICY**

Letter jackets are awarded to all seniors and to band students who have been in the Trojan Regiment for at least one year and have met special criteria prior to their senior year.

All seniors who have not yet received a jacket prior to their senior year are eligible to receive a jacket, provided they are a member of the band their senior year.

Other students may earn a jacket prior to their senior year by meeting any two of the following criteria:

 **1**. Being a section leader through a UIL contest.

 **2**. Making the 1st band at All-Region tryouts.

 **3**. Qualifying for the All-Area tryouts.

 **4**. Making the All-State Band.

 **5**. 1st Division at the State UIL Instrumental Solo & Ensemble Contest.

 **6**. 1st Division on a Class 1 Instrumental Solo at UIL Regional Solo and Ensemble Contest.

**7**. 1st Division on a Class 1 Instrumental Small Ensemble at UIL Regional Solo and Ensemble Contest (this excludes medium ensembles).

**8**. Selected as outstanding musician at an approved summer band camp, festival, or musical performance as judged by a band director.

It is understood that the school may only award the jacket and the letter. Any other awards, patches, service bars, batons, etc. added to the jacket must be paid for by the student.

It is also understood that if a student does not stay in band through their senior year, they may be asked to forfeit jacket and awards depending on circumstances of withdrawal. Removal from band due to disciplinary action is cause for immediate return of jacket and/or awards.

**PARENT/STUDENT UIL MARCHING BAND**

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

No student may be required to attend practice for marching band for more than eight hours of rehearsals outside the academic school day per calendar week (Sunday through Saturday). This provision applies to students in all components of the marching band.

On performance days (football games, competitions, and other public performances), bands may hold up to one additional hour of warm-up and practice beyond the scheduled warm-up time at the performance site. Multiple performances on the same day do not allow for additonal practice and/or warm-up time.

Examples of Activities subject to the UIL Marching Band **Eight Hour Rule**:

\* Marching band rehearsal (both full band and components) \* Any marching band group instructional activity \* Breaks \* Announcements \* Debriefing and viewing marching band videos \* Playing off marching band music

\* Marching band sectionals (both director-led and student-led) \* Clinics for the marching band or any of its components

The following activities are not included in the eight hour time allotment:

\* Travel time to and from rehearsals and/or performances \* Rehearsal set-up time \* Pep rallies, parades, and other public performances \* Instruction and practice for music activities other than marching band and its components

NOTE: An extensive Q&A for the Eight Hour Rule for Marching Band can be found on the Music Page of the UIL website at: <http://www.uil.utexas.edu>

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM**

**This acknowledges receipt of the Coldspring-Oakhurst CISD Trojan Regiment handbook. The handbook should be kept for reference throughout the year for both parents and students.**

**In accepting this band handbook, I accept the privileges and responsibilities as a member of the Trojan Regiment. I will uphold those qualities in my actions and attitude, which will honor the band and the school. I am completely committed to the Trojan Regiment for the 2015-2016 school year. I understand that this handbook will be in effect throughout the summer of 2015, and will remain in effect until the next year’s handbook is distributed.**

**Signed:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Student**

**Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Guardian**

**Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**This page should be signed and returned to the band director on the day of registration.**