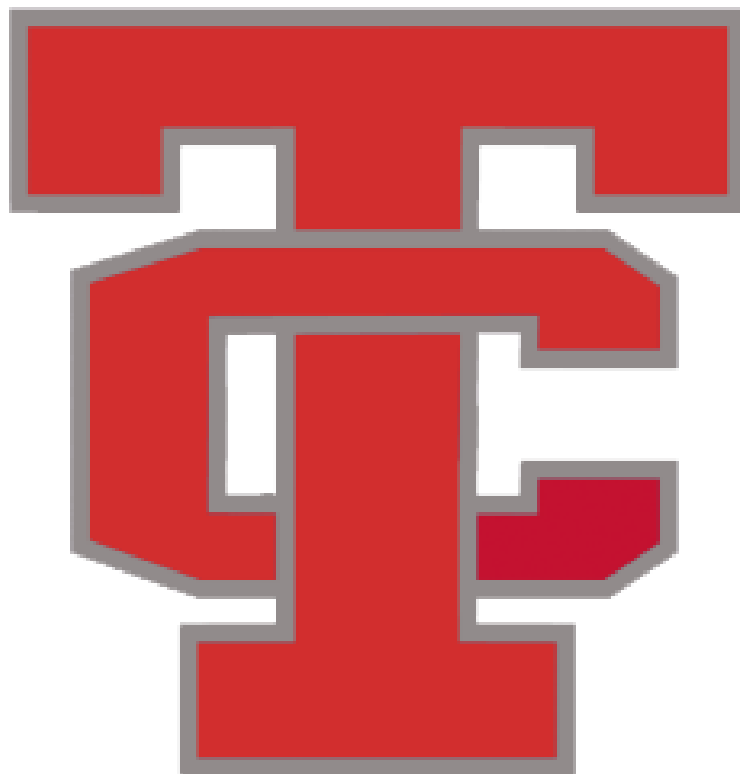


Todd County Central High School

Band Handbook

2021/2022



Mike DiPasquale - TCCHS Director
Heather DiPasquale - TCMS Director

Welcome!

Congratulations on your decision to be a part of the exceptional tradition that is the Todd County Central High School Band. This handbook is designed to be a guide for parents and students regarding specific details of all aspects of the TCCHS band program.

As always, if there is ever a question please contact Mr. DiPasquale via phone or email:

mike.dipasquale@todd.kyschools.us

(270) 265-2506 ext. 5211

Ensembles

Band is a year-long course there is some required participation for all members and includes additional, voluntary opportunities as well.

Concert Band - This is the 7th period band class. All woodwind, brass, and percussion players who want to participate in any aspect of the TCCHS band must take this course. Marching band color guard members do not take this class.

Honors Credit for Band Class - Students enter the honors track upon approval of the director and will enter at Level 1 regardless of the year they choose to begin the honors band program unless otherwise dictated by the director. Only one level can be completed per academic year, students who do not complete required components will not receive honors credit

Honor Cords - Seniors who graduate as members of the TCCHS band will receive an honor cord at graduation to wear as part of their academic regalia.

Marching Band - All members of the TCCHS band participate in marching band. Woodwind, brass, and percussion performers MUST take band class during the day in order to participate in marching band. This ensemble will participate in home football games, several competitions, and local parades. All members will attend summer band camp and after school rehearsals.

Jazz Band - Jazz band can be offered as a class during the school day so long as it meets SBDM enrollment requirements. This group will perform at several local events and jazz festivals throughout the year. Students must be enrolled in band class, exceptions can be made for guitar, piano, and bass players with instructor approval.

Pep Band - all members of the TCCHS band are required to participate in the pep band that plays at home basketball games. This group will also perform at district, region, and state tournament games whether they are at home or away.

All-District/All-State/Honor Bands - students have the opportunity to audition for selection to these groups. Music will be provided as it becomes available.

Chamber Ensembles - Students will have the opportunity to participate in small ensembles for a variety of performances.

Attendance Expectations

Students are expected to attend all events of their respective ensemble. Enclosed is a copy of the schedule through October and more dates will be made available soon after school begins. We give lots of advance notice for events and it is essential that we have 100% attendance for all rehearsals and performances so please schedule accordingly. In the event of a family emergency, PARENTS, please contact Mr. D right away.

Band Camp: Attendance at band camp and pre-camp are required. If a student does not attend these rehearsals or they receive an unexcused absence then they will be removed from the band program. Parents must contact the director first thing in the morning for an illness absence to be excused.

Illness: If you are well enough to be at school then you are well enough to attend after school rehearsal. Students should ensure they are prepared for after school marching rehearsals; wear appropriate shoes and clothing, stay hydrated throughout the day, and wear a hat, sunglasses, and sunscreen outside. Eat breakfast and lunch at school and during band camp! You cannot expect to be able to be productive if you are not hydrated, fed, and dressed for outdoor work.

Unexcused absences: The following not be excused: work conflicts, home work, concert tickets, baby sitting, didn't have a ride, vacations, etc. All of these things should be worked out in advance. Schedules are set and released early in order to avoid conflicts, if you have a question contact Mr. DiPasquale BEFORE you pay for tickets or hotel rooms.

Work - Most employers are very flexible with student schedules provided they have enough notice from you. If your employer is not willing to cooperate with your schedule then you should find one who will or you will have to make a choice between job and band.

Grades - Band students typically have exceptional grades. Many band students are among the top students in their class, take weighted courses, and never miss a single performance or rehearsal. If you manage your time well then you shouldn't have an issue with keeping your grades in good shape. Homework or studying is not an excuse for missing practice or performances.

Sports - Band students can participate in sports so long as they do not overlap with after school commitments. Marching band practices will conflict with fall sports practices (football, soccer, volleyball, cheerleading, golf, etc.). Spring/Winter sports conditioning does overlap with marching band but our coaches are always flexible with this since we are still in competition and they have not started competition at that time. Students involved in spring/winter conditioning are expected to attend band practices in their entirety during that time. Again, we've never had an issue with a coach and this expectation.

Concerts/vacations - Students will not be excused from TCCHS Band and jazz band performances or practices due to the purchase of concert tickets or scheduling of vacations.

Every effort is made on the part of the director to set a schedule, communicate that schedule, and stick to that schedule. All students and parents are expected to be responsible and keep those dates open. If you can't be counted on to be at practices and performances then you will not be a member of the TCCHS band program.

Grading

Grading in band is based upon participation and playing evaluations. Grades for band students are usually higher than the norm, which is understandable, since we have the "cream-of-the-crop" of the student body in the band program. Students belong to our program because they "want to," not because they "have to". Band students receive a grade for each performance attended (football games, concerts, competitions, etc.) Students will receive additional grades based on daily participation, sectionals, playing & written tests, etc. Students must have equipment in good working order and be present at all required rehearsals and performances for their participation grade. If these expectations are not met, the participation grade will be affected.

School instruments and uniforms

Students who are issued a uniform and/or instrument are responsible for anything that happens to those items. Instrument or uniform damage that occurs due to abuse or negligence or lost items will be the financial responsibility of the student. Uniforms will be worn with pride and respect. You wear all of the uniform (minus the hat) or none of the uniform. During warm weather we will remove our jackets (when the director says to do so), keep your bibbers on your shoulders. Non uniform items are not to be worn while in uniform (jewelry, hats, shoes).

Rehearsal Expectations

Learn your part, make your best effort every day, and keep up with all of your responsibilities (including your grades). We're all in this together. If you don't know your music, drill, or guard work then you're not earning your place. If you need help, ask. If you see someone in need, help. No one is going to yell at you and "force" you to be good, you have to make that choice for yourself. If you're willing to make the commitment to being great, and you uphold that commitment, then you can be a part of the band. This is only as successful as we make it.

Expectations for Parents

Our job as adults is to enable the performers to be their best. Fundraising, moving logistics, and general support are just a few of the roles in which we serve. No one receives a title or an award. Our satisfaction comes from seeing the band kids perform their hearts out and knowing that we're enabling their success.

What to Expect of the Directors

We are the decision makers and teachers of the group. Designing the show, designing instruction, and scheduling are just a few of our responsibilities. We take our responsibilities very seriously because we love our careers and we love the kids we teach. We will be organized, we will communicate, and we will set the performers up for success the best our abilities and resources allow.

Expectations for Everyone

1. **Be positive** - Be kind, caring, and keep a positive tone in your voice. The most contagious disease in the world is attitude.
2. **Be loyal** in your words and actions - Members and parents should always consider what they do and say. We can't expect support from our administrators, school board, and community if we're speaking ill of them. It's tough, but even if we don't agree with a result we still shouldn't trash talk judges. Think twice before you post on social media.
3. **Keep it appropriate** - keep conversations and language "school appropriate". Remember, our campus and the other schools we visit are "smoke free".
4. **Volunteer and donate** - From time to time we will ask for donations of food items, water, snacks, etc. please contribute when asked. It helps keep everyone's fees low!
5. **Be present, be on time**
6. **Be encouraging** - to everyone.
7. **Make the kids the focus** - We'll never have an issue as long as enabling the kids to be the best performers possible is our focus.

Honors Credit for Band Requirements

Description: Students will follow a programmed course of study in instrumental music that provides students with a challenging and innovative curriculum. The requirements of this course of study are designed around a template for being a successful musician and allow students opportunity to reach their highest musical potential. This course of study is open to students of any grade level enrolled in the Todd County Central Band.

Requirements: Students enter the honors track upon approval of the director and will enter at Level 1 regardless of the year they choose to begin the honors band program unless otherwise dictated by the director. Only one level can be completed per academic year, students who do not complete required components will not receive honors credit. Level requirements to be as follows:

Level 1

- Quarter 1 - completion of scale assessment of diatonic major scales up to key signatures containing 3 flats and 3 sharps, 7 scales in total.
- Quarter 2 - Participation in All-District Band auditions held in November. Audition excerpts must be performed to a satisfactory level as determined by the band director prior to the audition.
- Quarter 3 - Participation in district or local solo and ensemble festival to be adjudicated at either Proficient or Distinguished level.
- Quarter 4 - Tutoring of a middle school band student on a like instrument. There must be four to six 30 minute lessons and will be supervised by the high school or middle school director on their respective campus. (Can be completed at any time during the year) OR complete an independent study of music theory or music history to be proctored by the band director.

Level 2

- Quarter 1 - completion of scale assessment of all diatonic major key scales, 12 scales in total.
- Quarter 2 - Participation in All-District Band auditions held in November. Audition excerpts must be performed to a satisfactory level as determined by the band director prior to the audition.
- Quarter 3 - Participation in district or local solo and ensemble festival to be adjudicated at either Proficient or Distinguished level.
- Quarter 4 - Tutoring of a middle school band student on a like instrument. There must be four to six 30 minute lessons and will be supervised by the high school or middle school director on their respective campus. (Can be completed at any time during the year) OR complete an independent study of music theory or music history to be proctored by the band director.

Level 3

- Quarter 1 - completion of scale assessment of all diatonic natural minor key scales and major key scales in thirds.
- Quarter 2 - Participation in All-District Band auditions held in November. Audition excerpts must be performed to a satisfactory level as determined by the band director prior to the audition.
- Quarter 3 - Participation in district or local solo and ensemble festival to be adjudicated at either Proficient or Distinguished level.
- Quarter 4 - Tutoring of a middle school band student on a like instrument. There must be four to six 30 minute lessons and will be supervised by the high school or middle school director on their respective campus. (Can be completed at any time during the year) OR complete an independent study of music theory or music history to be proctored by the band director.

Level 4

- Quarter 1 - completion of scale assessment of all diatonic harmonic and melodic minor key scales and major key scales in thirds.
- Quarter 2 - Participation in All-District Band auditions held in November. Audition excerpts must be performed to a satisfactory level as determined by the band director prior to the audition.
- Quarter 3 - Participation in district or local solo and ensemble festival to be adjudicated at either Proficient or Distinguished level.
- Quarter 4 - Tutoring of a middle school band student on a like instrument. There must be four to six 30 minute lessons and will be supervised by the high school or middle school director on their respective campus. (Can be completed at any time during the year) OR complete an independent study of music theory or music history to be proctored by the band director.

An Introduction to Marching Band

Why should I do this?

Students

1. **It's busy and it's worth every second.** Learning and mastering the program takes many hours of rehearsal. There will be frustrations and celebrations along the way. By the time you get to the end, however, you'll see just what an amazing journey we've taken together. All of our members last year said they wouldn't trade their experience for anything.
2. **You'll make lots of new friends right away.** Our band kids are the best kids in the school. Veteran members will welcome you on the first day and will help you learn your music, drill, and marching fundamentals. No one is mistreated or bullied.
3. **Your time will be well spent.** Our rehearsals are well planned, almost to the minute, and we will accomplish something everyday.
4. **You'll be part-owner in one of the best organizations you'll ever find.** You're not just a member, this belongs to you.
5. **You'll have a sense of pride that will last the rest of your life.** Stick with it all the way through high school and, when you take that final bus ride back to the school, you'll understand just how huge what you've done really is. Look back ten (twenty, thirty, and more) years later and you'll feel just as proud.

Parents

1. **It's a great way to bond with your kid and show them how much you love them.** Whether you're in the stands or helping at the field level your kid will love seeing you there, even if they don't say it.
2. **Your kid will be with a responsible, well-managed, and educational group.** Our time is structured and everyone is supervised all the time.
3. **You'll see your kid grow in maturity, musicianship, and their grades will probably go up too.** We seek to educate the whole kid. Their time management skills will improve as well.
4. **You'll have a sense of pride that will last the rest of your life.** Our parents are proud too!

What does it cost?

There is a member fee of \$175. We are flexible with payment schedules but, unless circumstances are extreme, we need the full amount paid. Please do not let member fees limit your kid's participation, we can work with your situation. We have the lowest band fees in our region, families in some of our neighboring school systems are paying more than double our amount.

Why does it cost?

Band is an expensive endeavour. The marching band show alone runs up a significant amount of expenditure:

Music and audio design: \$2,250

Drill design: \$2,500

Wind performer choreography: \$250

Color Guard Choreography: \$500

Color Guard costumes/flags: approximately \$200 per performer

Anticipated 2021 show expenditures: \$7100

Beyond that, we have continuing expenditures for maintenance, materials, and travel. Our fees are able to stay so low because we fundraise effectively. All of the money we spend directly contributes to our students' experience in band and every dollar spent on