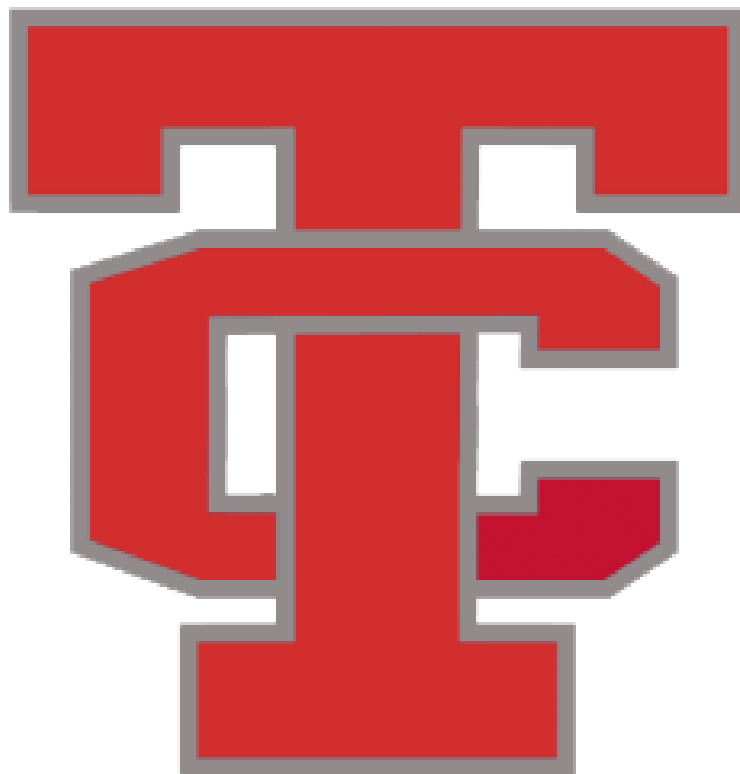


# Todd County Central High School

## Band Handbook

### 2022/2023



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](mailto: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** - Marching band runs as a co-curricular ensemble to the band class. All students enrolled in band class 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 is offered as a class during the school day. This group will perform at several local events and jazz festivals throughout the year. Students must be enrolled in band class to enroll in jazz band.

**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 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.

**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. 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 Year 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:

### **Year 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.

### **Year 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.

### **Year 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.

### **Year 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.
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. All of our time is oriented towards improving our product.
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.** Watching your kid perform the complex show that we will learn will be something you'll never forget.



# FAQs

## What does it cost?

There is a member fee of \$225. This is a \$50 increase due to our trip to Indianapolis and the cost of two nights in a hotel. Families with multiple children in high school band/color guard will receive a discount on fees. 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 endeavor. 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

Hotel stay for BOA (approx): \$4000

Estimated transportation (bus) expenses: \$2000

Total estimated marching band expenditures: \$13,100

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.

## Do I have to be in marching band if I take band?

Yes. Marching band is a co-curricular activity with our band class. The unity and camaraderie our students experience through this activity are unlike any other. In addition, the students will be part of a highly organized, positive team that must work together to tackle the biggest of challenges. We value this experience so highly that we feel every student should be a part of it.

## **Can I continue to play sports and be in band?**

Yes, so long as practices don't overlap. Marching band does meet after school so that does present an issue for some activities (football, soccer, cheerleading, dance, golf). If your coach will work with you so that you don't have to miss any practice time for either activity then we won't have an issue. If not then a choice will have to be made.

## **Are there any sports/activities that won't conflict with band?**

Yes, most of them. Basketball, BETA, academic team, archery, track, softball, baseball, eSports, FFA, 4H, and many others. Pretty much anything that doesn't conflict with our marching band schedule.

## **I'm a little intimidated by this....**

If you're feeling intimidated, that's perfectly natural. We learn the show one step at a time, no one gets left behind. Every day begins with basics and review. Everyone was a rookie at one point! The directors, camp staff, and older members will help you, we're all in this together.

## **Student Testimonials**

### Why is being a band member important to you?

Being a band member is important to me because without it, I would have never been introduced to my amazing band family and community that surrounds it.

Being a band member is important to me because it is an experience like no other. I have never been so happy, interested, or intrigued by anything other than band. It may be difficult at times, but in the end it is worth it. I don't know where I would be without the experiences band has provided me with.

### Why did you choose to stay in band as long as you have?

I have made many new friends and what small part of marching band i got to experience was so fun, also the music you get to play is really fun and cool. Its not something to be scared of, the people are super nice and will help you with anything in band you're having issues with.

It helped me get out of my comfort zone and explore new things. Made me work harder for what I want to achieve. I made new friends and they've been my friends since my first year.

The reason I stayed in as long as I did is because I had fun doing it and it is an amazing ride to go on.

The reason I've stayed in the band as long as I have is because it's something I love to do. I enjoy coming to school every day and practicing both concert and marching band. Not only does it give me something to do with my time, but it allows me to be a part of something bigger than just myself. I get to be a part of our school's history, and eventually have something to look back on.

Band is how I met my friends, and how I was able to focus my creative skills on something productive. As simple as it is, I enjoy seeing the immediate change in the way we sound with every practice. It validates the hard work put in with every practice, and it definitely pays off in the end.

I have chosen to stay in band as long as I have because every year it gets better and better. Band has always been a priority to me ever since I joined in middle school. When high school hit, it being a priority multiplied. It has taught me so much more than just music and how to play my instrument. The people that I have met throughout band have been like no other. It was open and welcoming from the beginning, and it has stayed that way.

### What do you love the most about band?

Being a Band member is important to me because it links so many of us together and can feel like a whole other family.

Not only to play awesome, and challenging, music but also for all of the people who make each rehearsal worth the time.

The thing I love most about the band is performing. I love being able to show our abilities to the public and receiving recognition for our hard work. Nothing beats a half-time show or one of our concerts!

The thing I love most about band is that we are like a family. No one gets left behind, and we are all in it together as a team. I will never forget anyone that has come across my path in band. They have all effected me in different ways. Many showing me the better aspects of band, and many just being good friends to laugh with. The band isn't just a band, it's a family; and that is something that will never change.

It feels like a place I can belong to.

### why should an 8th grader continue with band in high school?

high school band is so much different than middle school. you get to play much cooler pieces of music and get to go on trips for competitions. the experiences and memories you get to make in high school band are like nothing else.

They should continue because it honestly gets so much better. Middle school is just learning the basic "how do I get this thing to make sound" but high school band is where the fun stuff happens. You got marching band and waaayyy better music, it's just great.

Band is a great way to meet new people, and have connections going into a scary new place. Getting to know some upperclassmen is always nice, as they really know how things work and can help you get situated to the scary transition to high school.

An 8th grader should continue with band in high school because band in middle school is nothing like high school. In middle school you're friends, in high school, you are a family. Going on competitions, spending hot summer days marching, and sharing laughs with the people closest to you is something I would never change for the world. I would never trade this opportunity for anything else, and neither should they. It isn't just work, it's fun, and like nothing ever before. To understand the ways of band, you must experience it.

### anything else you'd like to say?

Do it! Trust me, especially when it comes to band camp. The days are long and hot but when you get to go to competitions, it makes every moment worth it.

Band has been the greatest opportunity that I have ever been given. It has effected me so greatly that I plan on making it a part of my life long career. I would never in a million years even think about trading the experiences of being a part of this band family for anything else. There is not a second that went by where I didn't enjoy being in band, and going to the competitions. Even if we don't win, the experience itself is worth wild. I would have never dreamed of falling this in love with band. The second we stood in front of that stadium at BOA, I knew that music is the career that I must follow, no matter what it takes.

High school band is awesome!!! The older band members aren't gonna be mean to you. they took me and my friends under their wings when we moved up to high school band, and I've taken a bunch of people under my wings, and I've made them my friends. the 9th graders realize very quickly that they don't have to be afraid of the older kids.

If you want to be a part of something bigger than yourself and make memories along the way, band is the right choice.

### Something I thought about band coming into this year. Did your mind change as the semester progressed?

I thought it would be extremely hard, i've learned to play like a highschooler.

I thought it would be difficult to get the band program back to the way it was with all of the rookies coming in but I worked well when we realized that they had a great work ethic.

My standards for my section have gotten higher and I'm proud of their progress

What I thought about band this year was that it would be difficult and that I wouldn't audition for anything and that I wouldn't make a lot of friends. Yes my mind changed about everything I thought this year would be.

I was scared about committing to marching band but had fun and I'm doing it next year.

I was afraid that band would be set back even further by school closures. I was glad to be proven wrong.

I thought going into marching band wouldn't be that good, but that changed real quick over time.

I thought it was going to be hard memorizing music for marching band and that the music might be extremely hard to remember. My mind changed actually because I ended up memorizing the 1st and 2nd piece of the music at the end of band camp and memorized the 3rd piece right after.

### Something I'm proud of about this semester.

We beat Russellville!!

How we got a show together and had fun while doing it with the lack of vets that have marched before.

Progress on my instrument

Making all-district

I'll always remember continuing to work throughout the pandemic, and the struggles that came along with them. Although it was a challenge, we managed to push through the marching and winter concert seasons and stay safe.

# Marching Rebels 2022

Informational meeting - Monday, February 28th 6:00 PM TCCHS auditorium

Color Guard Auditions - March 28th - 31st

\$50 fee deposit due - May 1st

Fundamental camp (winds and color guard) - May TBA

## Color guard/percussion camp

July 20-22 8 AM - Noon

## Band camp

July 25 - 29 8 AM - 5 PM

August 1 - 5 8 AM - 5 PM

## After School Rehearsals

Monday - winds and percussion till 4:30

Tuesday - all members till 5:45

Wednesday - color guard till 5:00

Thursday - all members till 5:45

## Home Football Games

Aug. 26

Sept. 23

Oct. 14

Oct. 21

Oct. 28

## Band Competitions

Save these weekends, I will release more specific information in the near future

Sept. 10

Sept. 17

Sept. 24

Oct. 1 - Murray State University Festival of Champions

Oct. 15

Oct. 21-22 - Bands of America - Indianapolis, Indiana