

Todd County Central High School Band Handbook

2024/2025



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.

Marching Band - Marching band runs as a co-curricular ensemble to the band class. All students enrolled in band class participate in marching band. Exception to this requirement will be made for students who are participating in a school sanctioned activity where participation in after school rehearsals is in direct conflict with their activity. The activities that have the aforementioned conflicts are football, volleyball, soccer, and golf. Cheerleading, Dance Team, and eSports do not conflict with marching band. If you are interested in participating in one of those activities AND marching band then let Mr. DiPasquale know ASAP and he will work with your coach on a schedule that will allow you to do both. Woodwind, brass, and percussion performers MUST take band class during the day in order to participate in marching band. Color Guard members are not required to play an instrument in order to participate and will not take the band course. 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 an after school ensemble that will perform at various on and off campus events.

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.

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.

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.

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

Performances - 200 points

Playing tests - 3 or 4 per quarter 100 points each

General Class participation - 200 points per quarter

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.

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.

Member Fees

What does it cost?

There is a member fee of \$175. 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 expense. 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.

2024 TCCHS Marching Band Schedule

Pre Band Camp - all members

July 15 - 18 - 8 AM - Noon

Band Camp

July 22 - 26

July 29 - August 2

8 AM - 5 PM

After School Rehearsal Schedule

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

Special Rehearsal Schedule

The Weeks of 10/14 and 10/21 We will rehearse on the normal Schedule, but all members will report every day. This is so we can prepare for KMEA regionals and semifinals.

Home football schedule

8/23 Monroe County

8/30 Ohio County

9/20 Mclean County

9/27 Russellville

10/25 Edmonson County

Marching Competition Schedule

Sept. 7

Sept. 14

Sept. 21

Sept. 28

Oct. 19th KMEA Regionals - Warren Central High School

Oct. 26 State Marching Band Championships - Christian Academy of Louisville/ University of Louisville



By signing this page you are aware of all the content of this handbook and you agree to meet all expectations of the Todd County Central Band.

I understand that:

- Attendance at all rehearsals and performances is required for participation in the Todd Central Band. Failing to meet this expectation will result in a lowered grade and removal from the band program.
- Participation in marching band and attendance at band camp is required of all members.
- Band members are expected to maintain good school attendance, good grades, and good citizenship.

Student Name _____

Student signature _____

Parent/guardian Name _____

Parent/guardian signature _____