

Crestwood High School Band Handbook 2008 - 2009



Name _____

The Value of Music Education

For centuries, music and art have been recognized as disciplines, on equal footing with mathematics, language, and the sciences as regards the development of mental process. More recent research has shown that the study of music and in particular performance actively involves more of the domains of the brain than any other discipline. Instrumental music, particularly in an ensemble such as band or orchestra, is the purest form of mental activity. It requires more of the brain to be utilized, both right and left brain functions, than any activity we experience in formal education. Dealing with the demands of ensemble performance and individual performance simultaneously requires that the performers manipulate visual symbolic information, interpret visual instructions from a conductor, analyze and synthesize aural information being received constantly, exhibit manual skill with the instrument, regulate their volume level and style of playing in concert with several other performers, and many other factors that all combine to become "making music." I can cite all that information and that's just a band director trying to justify his own existence in many people's eyes. Instead I would like to present what many philosophers, thinkers, and leaders have expressed regarding the value of music.

PLATO: "Music training is a more potent instrument than any other, because rhythm and harmony find their way into the inward places of the soul."

SHAKESPEARE: "The man that hath no music in himself . . . let no such man be trusted."

ERNEST BOYER (President, Carnegie Foundation): "Music gives us a language that cuts across the disciplines, helps us to see connections and brings a more coherent meaning to our world."

PAUL HARVEY (Broadcaster/commentator): "Our schools tend to refine intellects but neglect to discipline emotions. For anyone to grow up complete, music is imperative."

GREGORY ANRIG (President of Educational Testing Service): "The things I learned from my experience in music in school are discipline, perseverance, dependability, composure, courage, and pride in results. Not a bad preparation for the work force!"

JOSEPH M. CALAHAN (Director of Corporate Communications, Xerox Corporation): "Arts education aids students in skills needed in the workplace: flexibility, the ability to solve problems and communicate, the ability to learn new skills, to be creative and innovative, and to strive for excellence."

CLIFFORD V. SMITH (President of the General Electric Foundation): "GE hires a lot of engineers. We want young people who can do more than add up a string of numbers and write a coherent sentence. They must be able to solve problems, communicate ideas and be sensitive to the world around them. Participation in the arts is one of the best ways to develop these abilities."

SHIRLEY YOUNG (VP, Consumer Market Development for General Motors): "The Japanese consider the study of music important for their engineers. Playing a musical instrument involves discipline, creativity, and conceptualization. These attributes, added to engineering talent, help produce results that are not only functional but also harmonious in every way. Music reaches across cultures and needs no translation."

MUSIC IS NOT ONLY IMPORTANT . . . IT'S ESSENTIAL!

Instrumental Music Department Philosophy

Music education is a primary means by which an educational institution can transmit to students the cultural heritage of society. Music transcends barriers of ethnic background, economic status, language, and even literacy in its power to reach the depths of the human soul. Experiences with music develop a student's ability to make value judgments, to function logically as well as intuitively, and to utilize one's innate creativity. Participation in performance organizations encourages initiative and leadership in the students, stimulates goal-oriented thought processes, creates an appreciation and respect for the efforts of others, and assists students to develop a sense of responsibility to themselves, the organization, and in a broad sense, society. We recognize that few high school musicians make music a career. However, the mental discipline and thought processes required in the study of music are applicable in all fields of endeavor.

General Objectives

- To make participation in instrumental music available to all students at Crestwood High School.
- To develop musical experiences that enhance students' overall educational experiences.
- To provide a suitable background in music instruction for those students who elect to continue the study of music after graduation.
- To develop a life-long appreciation for music and continuation of musical activities.
- To develop performing organizations that are a source of pride for the individual, the school, and the community.

Membership

SCARLET GUARD MARCHING BAND-

The Marching Band, otherwise known as the Scarlet Guard, is in existence from late July through early November each year. Marching band is a required part of the Band course offered by Crestwood High School. This ensemble performs at various marching band festivals and competitions, Crestwood Varsity Football Games and local parades and events.

CONCERT BAND -

Open to all students (grades 9 -12) with prior band experience, **by audition**, this class will concentrate on developing basic playing skills such as tone production, rhythmic proficiency, intonation, and technical ability, as well as preparation and performance of fine concert band literature. This ensemble will perform on several concert programs and in concert festivals. There will be out-of school time required for rehearsals and performances.

WIND ENSEMBLE –

Open to students in grades 9 - 12, **by audition**. This ensemble comprises the most outstanding instrumental musicians at Crestwood High School, and will have as a primary focus the preparation and performance of the fine literature for the wind band. While students will already possess a high degree of ability, the further advancement of musical skills, both individual and ensemble will be paramount to the success of the student and the organization.. There will be out-of-school time required for rehearsals and performances.

Ohio Music Education Association

OMEA is a representation of all the schools in the state of Ohio. The format of their contests are not qualified to one specific style of band. The philosophy of OMEA is a non-placement contest with ratings only. However, over the past years OMEA has gone to some rating and placement format. The bands are divided into 4 classes: C, B, A and AA with AA being the largest class. The class that each band is in is determined by the student enrollment for grades 10-12. Along with placement, there is a rating of I-V with I being the highest achievement. Any band that achieves a I rating is qualified for OMEA State Contest that is held at several locations over the final week of October and first week of November. During the winter months, OMEA offers large group district contest, which is for all concert bands. Each concert band decides which class it will compete for a rating in. The classes range from C being the lowest to AA being the highest and most challenging. For those ensembles receiving a "I" rating, they will be invited to perform in the OMEA State Contest, which will be run under the same guidelines as the district contest.

Bands of America

Bands of America (BOA) is a national organization for high school music programs and students. BOA hosts many contests and symposiums. BOA is probably best known for their marching contests held each fall. There are 14 regional contests held at different professional and college stadiums around the country. Each regional competition consists of a prelims performance, which includes about 30 bands. Then the top 10 bands from prelims are invited back that evening for the decisive finals performance. Along with the regional competitions, BOA also offers Grand National Competition each year that is held at the RCA Dome in Indianapolis, Indiana. This competition is usually the 1st or 2nd Thursday, Friday, and Saturday of November. The format for nationals is prelims (90 bands), semi-finals (30 bands), and finals (12 bands).

Pay to Participate Information

Band during the 2008-2009 school year is a Pay to Participate (PTP) activity.

This fee is \$250 per student.

The main things covered in the PTP fee are: staff, transportation, dry cleaning, truck rental, awards, marching band show, and entry fees.

This activity will follow the family cap policy of no more than \$1500 for combined high school sports and activities.

This fee will be due no later than Friday, August 1, 2008.

Checks should be made payable to Crestwood High School. Any student who wishes to use all or part of their band account funds to pay their fee may do so by simply filling out a *Student Purchase Order* and turning it in to Mrs. Ferguson by the due date. Fees may also be paid directly to Mrs. McKittrick in the athletic office throughout the summer.

Grading Procedure

Band is a unique course at Crestwood High School. It has curricular requirements, just as any other academic discipline, but it also has out-of-class time requirements. The strength of the band program is the consolidation of these requirements into one performance based, academic course of study. The level of commitment from each individual student is the driving force behind the organization and is reflected in the level of achievement reached by the individual and the program. Band is a learning activity. Rehearsals, whether during or after school, are the means by which students learn, and by their very nature cannot be reproduced or made-up. Therefore it is imperative that students are present unless the absence is absolutely unavoidable. Excessive rehearsal absences will undoubtedly affect a student's performance. Although we frequently function as conductors, we are primarily teachers responsible for the musical and aesthetic education of each student in the band program. This is the reason we are absolutely insistent upon each student's daily participation. Rehearsals are not optional, and are reflected in the student's daily grade. Performances are viewed as major tests: a performance, in addition to being a national standard of arts education, is a learning experience that cannot be duplicated in a rehearsal hall or practice room; the level of concentration required in a public performance assists each student develop an insight into their own level of performance; a performance is an important evaluation tool, allowing comparison of a student's performance in relation to classroom objectives presented and with past performances. Absences from performances are only excused in the event of an extreme emergency: *serious* illness or hospitalization of the student, death in the family, or other reasons deemed excusable by the band director.

The band director must approve all absences from performance in advance.

The following criteria will be used as students are earning their grades during the marching band season/1st grading period. It is important that all students understand the criteria and are able to clearly see how they have earned their grade. Students will be given a separate criteria list at the beginning of concert band for the 2nd, 3rd and 4th grading periods.

- A
 - Attend Band Camp
 - No unexcused absences from rehearsals or performances
 - Meet playing test standards by the end of the grading period
 - No disciplinary problems that result in office referrals
 - No more than 3 excused absences
- B
 - Attend Band Camp
 - No more than one unexcused absence from a rehearsal
 - Meet playing test standards by the end of the grading period
 - Attend all performances
 - No disciplinary problems that result in office referrals
 - No more than 3 excused absences
- C
 - Attend Band Camp
 - No more than 2-3 unexcused absence from a rehearsal
 - Meet playing test standards by the end of the grading period
 - Attend all performances
 - No disciplinary problems that result in office referrals
 - No more than 3 excused absences

Any student with an unexcused absence from a performance, has more than 3 unexcused absences from rehearsals, or does not take the playing tests, may earn a grade of D or F for the grading period.

Finally, we take our job as a band director very seriously. The band as an organization provides a medium through which students progress academically, musically, and socially. Musicianship, attitude, attendance, punctuality, conduct, and a desire for excellence are absolutely expected from each member of the Crestwood Band. Therefore, individual **practice** and **preparation** are essential. No other discipline in education requires the high level of achievement from all participants as does musical performance. Through the level of commitment required we hope to better prepare our students for the responsibilities encountered throughout their lives.

Parents

Parents are an important part of the Crestwood Band, and have a vital role to play. Without the assistance and cooperation of Band parents, there would be no chance for the level of success we want the band to reach.

There are many things parents can do:

- Attend Band Parent meetings.
- Volunteer for parent committees. There are many different tasks with which we need your assistance, and everyone can find the niche that suits them best: chaperon, uniforms, transportation, equipment handling (pit crew), sewing, meals and publicity are just a few of the areas we need filled for the marching season alone.
- Be supportive of the band program and your child's participation by:
 - Assisting your child to be prepared and punctual for every rehearsal and performance.
 - Notifying the director if your child is to be absent or late for performance or rehearsal. This should be done in advance unless in absolute emergency situations.
 - Encouraging your child to practice at home and help them find a quiet place to do so.
 - Showing your interest and support in your child's music study by enthusiastically attending every performance possible.
 - Discussing with directors and staff anything that will help them understand and better serve your child.
 - Arranging for private lessons for your child, if at all possible.

Staff and Chaperons

Everyone on the staff of the Crestwood Band has been selected due to the skills and qualities they possess and for the benefit they can bring the band program, and should be considered an extension of the directors. They are to be treated with the highest level of courtesy and respect.

Chaperons are also extensions of the authority of the directors. Without the dedication of our chaperons and other adults that assist with the band, we could not travel or perform in the way we do. These people work hard, and the only payment they receive is our appreciation. Be respectful, polite, cooperative, and remember that the words “*Thank You*” cost you nothing but are highly valued by the recipient. If you disagree with something a chaperon asks you to do, you **are not to argue** with the chaperon. You are to do as you are asked and then inform a director as soon as possible.

Summer Activities

Summer Rehearsals – There are four scheduled rehearsals during the summer to prepare us for band camp. These rehearsals provide the basic instruction that will allow us to have successful band camp, **and should not be considered optional if the student is in town and able to attend.**

Band Camp – July 27 –Aug 1 Held at Crestwood High School. These are full day sessions, utilized to teach the competitive marching show musically and visually. See the special sheet regarding camp instructions. Our basic daily schedule will be as follows

7:30 – 7:50 am – students arrive

8am – 12pm – rehearsal

11:45– 12:30pm – lunch(students bring their own bag lunch)

12:30 – 2:30pm – Free Time/Group Activity Time

2:30 – 4:45pm – Sectional/Full Ensemble Music Rehearsal

4:45 – 5:30pm – Dinner(provided by the band patrons)

5:30 – 9:00pm – rehearsal

9:00pm – Students dismissed at this time.

No students will leave campus until all sessions for the day are complete.

Camp Attendance - It is imperative that students attend Band Camp. We have a limited amount of time to prepare for our first performance, and we must be able to make the most of the time we have. Students who are unable to make camps may not start the season as a performer.

August Rehearsals

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evening rehearsal - 5:00 – 9:00

• Parents are invited to these rehearsals to find out more about *how* we do *what* we do.

School begins on August 26 –

We will have our regular Wednesday night rehearsals 6-9pm once school starts.

Marching Band

The Crestwood Marching Band enjoys a reputation for musical excellence aesthetically complemented by vivid visual images and movement reflecting the mood and character of the music. The band is fast becoming recognized as one of the top programs in Ohio; to continue in this tradition of success requires a high degree of dedication, effort, and pride on the part of each person involved. Membership in the Crestwood Marching Band requires that students: 1) attend all rehearsals and performances; 2) pay a \$250 band fee; and 3) be enrolled in the

band class offered at Crestwood High School, and comply with all rules and regulations as listed in the school and band handbook.

The band follows a regular rehearsal schedule; any changes are announced well in advance. This allows students to plan other activities and obligations around the schedule. Plan to arrive well in advance of the beginning of rehearsal...don't try to squeak in at the last second. We have a limited amount of rehearsal time and it is essential that we make efficient use of the time we have. This can only happen when every band member is present and working to improve. The band member that misses rehearsal cannot improve, and the other band members around them have a less effective rehearsal due to the absence. We all depend on each other to "carry our fair share of the load" in order for us to achieve the level of proficiency for which this band has become noted.

Rehearsals are never canceled due to inclement weather. Students should dress for the weather. Not having the proper attire is no reason for having a poor rehearsal. Students should wear low top tennis shoes and socks for rehearsals. This is important in that the style of marching step we use requires that the foot and ankle be permitted to move freely. Shorts are the appropriate attire for rehearsals – once the weather is too cool for shorts, you should wear something that gives freedom of movement in the lower body, like sweatpants. Constricting clothing, such as jeans, will limit your ability to function effectively in the visual part of the program. Each member is expected to have all necessary equipment, in working order, along with all music and dot books at all rehearsals.

Attendance Policy

Attendance, by each musician, at all rehearsals and performances is mandatory, and extremely crucial to the success of the entire group. The attendance system is maintained in fairness to all those who are regular and punctual in attendance. Any absence not only affects the quality of the band as a whole, but also could jeopardize the student's regular membership status. In the **rare** case that it is impossible to make a scheduled event, a **BAND ABSENCE EXCUSE FORM** signed by a parent/guardian is required and must include a detailed explanation of the reason for the absence. A sample form is included in this packet.

Absences

Absences from band rehearsals or performances are *unexcused* unless due to (a) personal illness with a note from the doctor, (b) death in the family, (c) an emergency, or (d) special permission of the Director obtained in advance by the parent or guardian. Students must exhibit consistent responsibility in these areas. Excessive absences may result in being removed from performance status.

It is vital to the success and planning of each rehearsal that if an emergency should arise, the band director should be notified immediately. (330.274.2214 ext 110). Please realize that communication should occur as soon as the conflict arises.

Missing a rehearsal without an excuse is unacceptable.

Filing Absence Excuse Forms

Absence Excuse Forms are available on the director's office door. Only the "Official" Absence Excuse Form will be accepted by the director. Please have them completed and turned in no later than July 1 if there is conflict with the 2008-2009 performance calendar. In the rare event that a student must miss a rehearsal (for other than another school activity), absence request forms must be turned in no later than 30 days prior to the date of conflict. The absence request will be reviewed by the directors. The reason stated on the forms must be specific.

1. Absence Excuse Forms must be filled out for all missed performances, rehearsals, and tardies.
2. All forms must be signed by a parent and turned in by the deadlines listed above.
3. If an emergency does arise, you must call the band office PRIOR to the event and file an absence form is required upon return the students return.

Unexcused Absences

Unexcused absences are unacceptable and are a detriment to the entire group.

Emergency and Illness Excuses

On rare occasions a band member may become ill on the day of a performance or rehearsal. The member may also have an emergency develop. If this is the case, it is the student's responsibility or the student's parent's responsibility to notify the band director by phone as early as possible. In any case, notice must be given to the band director prior to the rehearsal or performance. At the start of each rehearsal, we attendance is taken, if we do not know that they student is going to be absent; we will start looking for that child. Please help us by communicating your child's last minute emergency effectively.

Tardiness

You are to be on time for all functions. Being on time means that you have all of the correct materials and are in the correct place for the rehearsal to begin. Remember..."To be on time is to be late, to be early is to be on time." If for any reason, you need to be late or have to leave a rehearsal early, an Absence Excuse Form is to be filled out following those specific guidelines.

Jobs

The Marching Band schedule for the 2008 season has been included in this handbook. **ALL** rehearsals and performances are **MANDATORY**. Therefore, all jobs must be scheduled around this schedule. Please be sure that you give your employer a 2-week notice of all upcoming events. Employers will work around your schedule. Work related absences are **UNEXCUSED**.

Health Issues

It is critical that each member take personal responsibility for their own well-being in order to be successful in rehearsal and performance. Perhaps the most critical issue is **hydration**. If you wait until you are thirsty, you are probably already well on your way to a dehydration problem. Students should have had a minimum of 32 ounces of **water** before starting a rehearsal or performance day, and should drink adequately during the rehearsal or

performance day at every opportunity, whether or not they feel thirsty at the time. Adequate water breaks will be taken. Please avoid soft drinks before and during rehearsal or performance days. Of almost equal importance is protection from the sun. All students should wear sunscreen, even on cloudy days, and reapply as needed. Students particularly susceptible to the sun should have light weight “cover-up” clothes to put on should they start to sunburn. Light colored clothes, sunglasses and a cap will make you more comfortable and able to be successful when the sun is strong.

Rehearsal Technique / Rehearsal Etiquette

1. Be present and on time — you cannot reap the benefits of a rehearsal or rehearsal segment you miss. Don't make plans that involve leaving rehearsal early or arriving late. Often some of the most important teaching in a rehearsal happens at those times.
2. Be actively and intently involved in the rehearsal
 - A. Just “going through the motions” during rehearsal is as bad as not being there. **Always be thinking about your performance.**
 - B. Your only focus should be the objectives the ensemble is trying to achieve during that rehearsal. **There is to be no unnecessary talking.**
 - C. Members are expected to give their utmost efforts during rehearsals in the pursuit of excellence in performance — **any less is an insult to your peers, your staff, and yourself.**
 - D. Instructions given by directors and staff should be followed not just to the letter, but also in the spirit of the intent.
 - E. Horseplay, throwing ice or water, or other such activities will not be tolerated
3. The proper attitude during rehearsal affects the value of that rehearsal
 - A. **An instruction that has to be given twice robs the band of rehearsal time and focus.** Don't cheat us all because you are not paying attention.
 - B. **Be cooperative.** Even if you don't understand the motivation for a rehearsal activity, have confidence that your staff does and execute as you are asked.
 - C. Disrespect towards directors, staff, and student leadership will never make the band more successful; **all students should show the proper respect for their peers, staff, and leadership**, and avoid exhibiting disrespectful attitudes such as eye-rolling, pouting, talking back, being unsupportive of directors and staff or in any way questioning any instruction or direction given.
 - D. **Being negative in rehearsal is a sure way to lessen the effectiveness of that rehearsal.** If you say things like “this will never work” there will probably be people around you that either believe what you say or are at least influenced by your opinion, and in either case they (like you) will be less productive.
 - E. **Offer encouragement to your peers, instead of criticism.** It takes a lot of pats on the back to erase the sting of a kick in the pants.
4. You can't be effective in rehearsal if you are unprepared
 - A. Arrive early enough to be in place, with all necessary equipment and materials, BEFORE rehearsal starting time.
 - B. Know all music/work that is due to be worked on in rehearsal. It is your responsibility to catch up should you be compelled to miss a rehearsal.
 - C. Have your materials organized - music, coordinate sheets or dot books in order and readily available.
 - D. Be certain your equipment is always in good working order.
 - E. Be dressed for the weather. Not having the proper attire is not a satisfactory reason for having a poor rehearsal. Wear low-topped tennis shoes and socks for rehearsals. Caps and sun block are recommended.

F. Never be an obstacle to the success of others. If you are keeping someone else from achieving their objectives, the entire organization is losing ground.

The CHS Band can only reach its highest level of success when each individual, each section, and each element are all at their highest possible effectiveness. It is the responsibility of each individual to do everything possible to reach that level and to do nothing that would keep themselves or others from reaching their goals.

Behavior Guidelines

- All band members are expected to follow the instructions of any teacher, staff member or chaperon.
- All school rules and policies are in effect at all band functions.
- Any band member possessing or using any controlled substances, which include tobacco and alcohol, during any band function is subject to immediate removal from the organization, referral to school authorities, and if applicable, the appropriate law enforcement agency.
- Band members will not play on or play with the equipment of others. This practice can lead to potential damage and a general lack of respect for the property of others. If you see someone picking up an instrument or equipment that is not theirs, remind them.
- Destructive activity will not be tolerated, whether it be something as seemingly innocent as playing on a wall, locker, or door with drumsticks, or bumping things with horns or equipment, or something more overt as deliberately damaging equipment, throwing objects, writing on walls or leaving trash around. An organization with class, mature members, and pride will not permit acts such as this. It is the responsibility of everyone to see that these types of things do not occur. If you see it, stop it. If they refuse to stop, notify a director, staff member, or chaperon immediately.
- The uniform is obviously an essential part of the performance. If you have a problem with your uniform, see the uniform people for assistance. Take care of your own uniform.
- All students travel to any off - campus activity on the bus. If you wish to ride home from an event with your parents, they must sign you out in person, at the conclusion of the event, and you will be removed from the bus roster. Students will be released only to parents or guardians. Only directors may release students, not chaperons or staff. Please be aware of this policy -- it is for your protection as well as ours.
- Band members are expected to use good judgment and show respect for others in displaying affection. An impassioned embrace or more ardent demonstration of feeling is best kept for private moments. Band trips and activities are not "carte blanc" makeout opportunities. Keep your raging hormones in check and don't embarrass your friends or cheapen your relationship by taking things beyond the limit of common decency.
- Any time there is a critical incident involving our people, our people and other band members, our people and "civilians", or any incident involving police or other authorities, the directors are to be notified immediately.
- Any injury that occurs during a band function should be reported to the director without delay.

- At any band contest, festival, trip, or other function, band members should move from place to place in a group. Do not go off by yourself, especially after dark. To leave the site, you must have permission from the director.
- Food and drink are not allowed in the stands at football games.
- Students are to be seated in their sections at all football games. It is important to present the image of discipline and pride at all times. The band plays only as a group, except when the percussion section plays. There should be no individual playing.
- Only Band members are allowed in the Band section of the stadium.
- When the Crestwood Band "falls in" to march to or from any location, there is to be absolutely no talking. When we march in formation, we are observed by the public and by other bands, and our tradition of success demands that you exhibit the highest level of personal and ensemble discipline at all times. You are "performing" whenever you are in public, whether you are getting off the bus, marching to the stadium, or on break. Do not embarrass yourself and your friends by acting in an immature manner.
- Following any football game or competition, it is your responsibility to insure that all your equipment is put away correctly. Non-band personnel should wait outside the band room to help limit confusion and expedite dismissal.

Attitude

Those who have a positive attitude, regardless of their individual skills, will always have a place in the Crestwood Band. Regardless of your ability, if your attitude is not positive, if you are not doing your personal best to make the group successful, you should not be a part of this band. In fact, students who do not project an attitude that is positive and cooperative will be given the opportunity to change their personal perspective or else leave the organization. Those who have pride in themselves will generally project a positive attitude. Characteristics of a positive attitude include a generally cheerful outlook toward rehearsals and performances, cooperation in the preparation and maintenance of equipment and facilities, and an eagerness to do what is necessary to be successful. In short, the ideal band member is someone who is always willing to give their best for the good of the organization.

Contests and Festivals

Contests, festivals, and other adjudicated events are important features of the Crestwood Band program. Through these activities we obtain valuable feedback about our progress as individuals and as a program. Although we never "live or die" by any one judge's or any panel's opinion of our performance, it is important that we learn the value of giving maximum effort and standing by the results as our best possible effort that day. Competitive performances are packed with emotion. Because of the time, work and discipline required to produce award-winning performances, we develop great camaraderie within the organization. We share hardship, discomfort, fatigue, oppressive heat, chilling cold, long bus rides, disappointment, tears, success and joy. Along with these emotions go high levels of tension, which often causes students to react immaturely. We learn to avoid these normal pitfalls and channel our energy and attention toward the goal of performance excellence and the ultimate success that will follow.

The band's image is based on each individual. Our public reputation is based on our appearance, our actions, and our projection of pride and organization. It is the responsibility of each member to insure that we present the best possible image at all times.

Instrument Care

- School-owned instruments become the responsibility of the student to whom they are issued. Any damage other than normal wear and tear will be repaired at the student's expense.
- Individual instruments must always be maintained in top playing condition. Always show the director your instrument before taking it for repairs.
- Remember that horseplay can cause damage to instruments and equipment. Be careful with your own instrument, place it out of harm's way if it is necessary for you to put it down, and never play around with or play on anyone else's instrument.

Uniform Information

When you are in uniform, you are no longer just an individual, but a representative of our Band, school, and community. You will receive detailed guidelines regarding the proper manner to wear the uniform, with which you will be expected to conform.

YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL UNIFORM PIECES THAT ARE ISSUED TO YOU, BUT THE UNIFORMS ARE PROPERTY OF CRESTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

For your information, uniform replacement costs are:

Pants	\$100.00
Jacket	\$150.00
Hat	\$55.00
Gauntlets	\$35.00
Red Plume	\$15.00
Black Plume	\$15.00
Raincoat	\$75.00

Students will be required to purchase the following uniform parts for the season:

Black Shiny Shoes	\$35
Colorguard Shoes	\$35
Black Gloves	\$3
Band Tee Shirt	\$15
Garment Bag	\$15

In Uniform:

When you are in full or half uniform of the Crestwood Scarlet Guard, the following rules apply:

- No public displays of affection
- At no time should you eat or drink (except for water and approved, provided snacks) in your uniform. Accidents will occur unexpectedly that may dirty, stain or permanently damage your uniform.
- Running and yelling in uniform is strictly prohibited: it is out of character and shows a lack of respect for the uniform and the Scarlet Guard.

- Appropriate language, attitude and respect is expected at all times.

The Scarlet Guard has created a very special look and approach. This image is created by YOU and how you approach the responsibilities involved with being a part of this very special group. The general rule is – if you have concerns as to whether you should be doing something, **DO NOT DO IT!** People who see you “behind the scenes” will form their opinions of the entire band from their opinions of YOU and how YOU behave in uniform.

Physical Appearance

Men – Hair should be neat. If a male member has long hair, it must be worn up in the same fashion as a female member, and appear to be short when the hat is worn; no hair should be touching the top of your collar or be popping out anywhere. Nothing is worse than a sloppy look.

Women – Your hair must be pinned up, braided or put in a bun of some sort so there is no hair showing outside your hat. Make up should be worn conservatively.

These requirements are by no means a comment on any member’s personal appearance, but rather to create a look of uniformity throughout the band.

- You may not wear any jewelry or nail polish while in uniform (watches, rings, necklaces, bracelets, etc). You should give specific thought before getting a new piercing to be sure you can remove it for any performance; simply covering it is not an option. Again, the idea is uniformity – not making a fashion statement.
- You must wear proper undergarments while in uniform. Even though these items are supplied by you, they are a required part of the uniform. These items include: long black socks, member t shirt, black uniform shoes, and cotton underwear (briefs). The uniform pants are tight and the briefs prevent the visibility of undergarment lines through the material of the uniform pants. Believe it or not – you can tell.
- Your uniform has a few separate pieces and they should be worn in the following manner:
 - Hat should be worn so that you can fit only two fingers between the brim of the hat and the bridge of your nose, flat on top and right above your eyes.
 - Plumes (red or black) will be passed out prior to each performance and collected immediately after the performance. The plumes are extremely fragile and might get damaged if not kept in the appropriate manner.
 - Gauntlets and gloves should always be worn while the uniform jacket is on.

The uniform should never be worn in parts, hanging open or in a sloppy fashion. It will either be all the way on or all the way off. The drum majors or staff will notify you as to whether we are in half (member shirts, socks, shoes and bib pants) or full uniform.

Above all, be constantly mindful of one important rule, there is a special way to look and to **ACT** as a member of the Scarlet Guard, and it is your responsibility to foster this appearance. Remember you are constantly being watched by spectators, other bands, other directors and parents. Their impression of the Scarlet Guard is created by what they observe from YOUR behavior both in *and* out of uniform.

You represent the Scarlet Guard – past, present and future!

The way you wear your uniform reflects the pride you have in your band. Our uniform, when worn properly, projects an image of pride and dignity. It is everyone's responsibility to see that all members respect and care for the uniform and that the uniform is worn properly at all times.

Leadership Team

The Band Council is a group of students who serve as liaisons between the staff and the students in the band program. Nine members of the Band Council are elected each spring as officers for the coming year In addition to the appointed Drum Majors. To be eligible for office, candidates must be full participants in the band program, exemplary in attitude, loyalty, and dedication, and willing to give of their personal time for the betterment of the Crestwood Band. One of the primary assignments of all officers will be the Band's morale.

Specific offices, qualifications and responsibilities are:

Band President: A Senior. The primary liaison between the band students and the directors, responsible for organizing activities of the council. Chief contact for band directors, staff, and parents whenever student input or assistance is required.

Vice-President: A Senior. First responsibility is the planning and implementation of activities of social and motivational nature. Assists President with council activities. Takes attendance at the beginning of each rehearsal.

Secretary: Senior. First responsibility is the planning and implementation of activities of social and motivational nature. Assists President with council activities. Takes notes at all meetings and communicates information to the appropriate sources.

Treasurer: A Senior. Is responsible for taking in any money earned by the council.

Communicates directly with the Band Patron treasurer.

Historian: Sophomore, Junior or Senior. Responsible for compiling a yearly scrapbook for the band. Assists with other paperwork as needed.

Librarian: Sophomore, Junior or Senior. Responsible for all music disbursement and organization.

Junior Representative

Sophomore Representative

Freshman Representative

We can only continue to build on the successes of the past if we continue to have outstanding student leadership. Section leaders are selected based on musical accomplishment, service, dedication and loyalty. These appointments are made by directors and staff and are not a popularity contest.

Student leaders are expected to be the first students to arrive and the last to leave. Good leaders look for jobs that need doing. They don't wait to be asked. Good leaders know that

respect comes from peers only when it is earned. Therefore, the leadership team should strive to always set an example by their behavior.

It is an obligation of the leadership team to keep directors and staff informed about any situation that might hinder the progress of the Band program. Members of the leadership team never ask a member of their section to do anything they are not prepared to do. You should be the first to rehearsal, the first on line, the first to have music memorized...in short, you should be first at everything.

The man at the top of the mountain did not fall there. Leaders must set the right example every day. Immaturity will often encourage us not to push ourselves to achieve our personal best until the week of a major performance. Unfortunately, that is too late. Success is built a piece at a time, every day. Lead your sections this way. Students who wish to have leadership roles should act and set their goals accordingly. Remember, directors and staff are watching for future Crestwood Band leaders throughout the year.

Private Lessons

Private lessons are the key to developing an outstanding musical organization. Students who study their instruments privately with a professional show rapid improvement in individual musicianship. As these students improve, their excitement towards practicing increases, they continue to improve, and they become a stronger contributor to the overall success of the band.

Private instruction has a great impact on the individual student and on our band program both this year and in the future. The key to satisfactory results from private instruction is to start as soon as possible ... SO START NOW.

Travel Tips

1. Whenever we travel, whether to a football game, a competition, or an overnight trip, band members are to be at the right place, at the right time, with the right equipment.
2. Follow all instructions of directors or chaperons. If you don't understand, ask.
3. No unnecessary moving around on the bus. No standing in seats, sitting on backs or arms of seats on the bus.
4. Do as the bus driver asks when on the bus.
5. Be quiet and cooperative during roll call on buses.
6. Use the restroom prior departure for an event.
7. No alcoholic beverages, or any controlled substances (which includes tobacco and alcohol) are to be taken, bought, or consumed during the trip. All prescription and non-prescription drugs you need to take must be listed on your medical release form.
8. No changing buses or rooms without directors' permission.
9. Leave non-essential valuables at home.
10. Watch your belongings. If you put something down unattended, there is an excellent chance it won't be there when you return.
11. Profanity is not a part of this band. Make sure your language is never offensive.
12. Personal radios and MP3 devices (e.g. headphones only...no speakers) are allowed on the bus, but for your own hearing the volume level should not be loud enough to be heard outside your head.
13. Behavior of students will be exemplary at all times. There is no excuse for rude, obnoxious acts.

14. All school rules are in effect throughout the duration of any trip.

15. Kindness and courtesy work miracles in almost every situation. Remember that PLEASE and THANK YOU cost you nothing, and yet are highly valued, especially when received from a teenager.

16. **There Shall Be No Action For Which An Explanation Is Necessary.** (Translation: If you think someone might ask you "Why did you do that?" then don't do it.) Think BEFORE you act and DON'T DO IT!

Violations of these rules will result in disciplinary action.

Detailed information sheets (FACT SHEETS), showing reporting, departing, and estimated arrival times, are distributed prior to any trip. Please have transportation available at the designated ETA.

Performances

Band Members are expected to be in the band room (or other designated area), with equipment ready, at the time designated by the director. Arrive early. Leave enough time to get all equipment prepared, be dressed and ready to warm-up or load when so instructed.

Once you're in the band room, keep noise to an absolute minimum. No horseplay.

After any performance, put away all equipment properly.

Bus Rules

- Buses are loaded in an orderly fashion. No pushing, running, or crowding the band room doors will be tolerated. We generally load in descending order by grade. Respect this tradition...you'll get to be a senior someday, too.
- Remain in seat while bus is moving. Do not kneel in seats or sit facing backwards.
- No loud talking or profanity. No horseplay. No playing of instruments on the bus. This includes drumming on the seats.
- No switching buses. Ride in the same seat returning, unless change is by mutual agreement.
- Do not yell from the buses. Hands, arms and other body parts inside the bus at all times.

Student Band Accounts

In order to assist the band member and parent in meeting the financial responsibilities of the band program, a band account system has been developed for all band members.

The individual band member is given the opportunity to accumulate funds in this account by active participation in various fund raising activities by the band and band patrons. Certain projects will credit a portion of the raised profit to the student's account, while other projects may credit the entire profit to the student's account. **Some projects do not credit any of the profit to the student's individual account.** The student will know in advance how the individual project works.

These are some guidelines for the band accounts.

1. Cash cannot be disbursed from the account to the student. All withdrawals must be made payable to the band, band patrons or a business.
2. Funds from the student's band account can be used only for band related expenses. This can include music purchases, band instruments, band camp, band trip expenses, special music camps, band uniform supplies, etc.
3. The student must complete and give to the band director a student purchase order form. A sample of this form is included in this handbook.
4. The student's band account may not be "overdrawn" for any reason without prior approval from the band director and/or band boosters.
5. Money in one student's band account cannot be transferred to another student. The only exception to this rule is in the case of siblings. Upon graduation, any remaining money in the account of the graduating student or a student who will no longer be in the band program will be transferred to the general fund of the Crestwood Band Patrons.
6. Funds accumulated during one school year will automatically be carried over to the next school year if the student is enrolled in the band program.
7. Periodically the band director will distribute a list of account balances and transactions. Individual inquiries can be directed to the Band Patron treasurer.

Band students are highly encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to help parents in covering the expenses occurred in the band program. This method of funding of the band expenses makes band possible for all students. It is also a method in which responsibility can be taught to the individual students.

Any questions regarding the band accounts are to be directed to the band director.