

Clay Center Community Schools  
USD 379



Clay Center Community  
Garfield Elementary  
*Bengals Jr.* Handbook  
2019/2020

This handbook belongs to:

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**BRETT NELSON, SUPERINTENDENT**  
**SARAH ARMSTRONG, PRINCIPAL**

**DANIELA THRASHER, DIRECTOR OF BANDS**  
**ABIGAIL, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF BANDS**

**WE WELCOME YOU, STUDENTS AND PARENTS!**

## WELCOME STUDENTS!

It is great to have you here in the band program at Clay Center Community Schools. Please take a moment to read this handbook to get familiar with expectations, responsibilities, performance dates, etc. This is a guide for students as well as parents and/or guardians to successfully participate in and support the band program here at CCCS.

It is very important that both the parent and the student read through the handbook. Having both the student and parent well informed will make the band experience more enjoyable. Listed are such things as what accessories you will need, what to wear to performances, when performances are and many other items. It will only take a few minutes to go through the handbook. Once you are through, please fill out the form at the end of the book and return it the band directors no later than **August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018**.

Please update your information in PowerSchool, as I will be sending you email reminders throughout the year regarding tests and performances. We also have a band website: [www.cccsbands.com](http://www.cccsbands.com) where we will post calendars, as well as other information regarding playing opportunities, honor bands and camps. We will also utilize Google Classroom for Education for theory assignments, performance reflections, etc.

We are on Social Media! Follow us on Instagram @cccsbands , like us on Facebook @claycentercommunitybands and on Twitter: @cccsbands

If there are any questions, please don't hesitate to email me. My contact information:

Daniela Thrasher  
Director of Bands  
Clay Center Community Schools  
[danielathrasher@usd379.org](mailto:danielathrasher@usd379.org)

As a rule, the band program has an open door policy! *Come on in!* I am excited that you chose to become a member of our band program.

*Music is your own experience, your thoughts, your wisdom.  
If you don't live it, it won't come out of your horn. ~Charlie Parker*

Yours sincerely,



## DEAR PARENTS!

A very warm welcome to you! Having kids in band is a commitment, and we are very grateful for you.

Activities/dates for the CCCS band members can be found on the band calendar attached, but always also on our web site [cccsbands.com](http://cccsbands.com). We are grateful for your support of your child/children in their endeavor to explore music and being a member of our band family.

After you read the handbook, please fill out the form at the very end to acknowledge the activities, policies, and expectations laid out in this document.

Thank you! Please email me with any questions or concerns you may have.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel Thrasher". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "D" and a long horizontal line extending to the right.

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Clay Center Community Schools  
Directors of Bands

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## **OUR MISSION**

The success of the band program centers on pride, commitment to task, respect, relevance, and the willingness to work hard to achieve a common goal. We do not expect every student in the band program to become a virtuoso musician. We do expect every student to establish both short and long range goals for improvement on his/her instrument, to exhibit mature responsible attitudes and actions at all times, and to be willing to contribute lots of hard work for the benefit of all.

According to the National Standards, we will work towards improving the musical skills as well as further developing intra- and inter-personal skills of each member in the band. The excellent music education will be made possible through solo, small and large ensemble learning and playing as well as be supported through theoretical training and individual study.

## **OUR GOALS**

*Music was my refuge. I could crawl into the space  
between the notes and curl my back to loneliness.*  
(Maya Angelou)

The mission as well as the goals for the music program here at Clay Center Community Schools are based on the National Standards. We want our students to experience, understand and create music to the best of their abilities.

### **WHILE PARTICIPATING IN BAND AND LEARNING ABOUT MUSIC YOU WILL**

1. increase your knowledge and performing abilities on your instrument.
2. learn to work productively in various group settings.
3. increase your (critical) listening skills.
4. enjoy music on a deeper level.
5. instill a sense of pride in your (musical) accomplishments.

### **EXPECTATIONS, RULES & POLICIES**

Come to class prepared to learn with proper materials, instrument or stick bag, music folder, book, pencil and necessary supplies. Be kind and respectful.

## **WORDS TO LIVE BY:**

*To be early is to be on time,  
To be on time is to be late,  
To be late is to be left.*

*Leave it better than you found it!*

*Respect yourself, your peers, staff, visitors and the equipment we use.*

It is recommended, that all band members enroll in band for the full year. You must be punctual, prepared and ready to learn and give your best! A positive attitude is the key. And always remember: effort can be more important than ability!

**PRACTICE** regularly. We will utilize Google Classroom for playing tests, as well as do live tests during class time.

**SEEK HELP** when needed and **COMMUNICATE** with your peers, your leaders and the band director as well as the staff.

## **PRIVATE LESSONS**

It is recommended that you study privately on your instrument. There are several opportunities: college students, music stores that offer private lessons, private instructors in town, and the band directors are also available for private lessons before or after school and during breaks (by appointment).

## **BAND ROOM & EQUIPMENT**

The room – our learning environment - **MUST** be kept clean and organized at all times. This does not apply only to our room or school and it is especially important when we travel.

## **RESTRICTED AREAS**

The band shelves, and percussion/music storage are areas that are to be used sparingly. Do not mingle in the storage room and keep it clean and in order. It must remain a low traffic area or things may get damaged or misplaced.

## INSTRUMENTS

1. Instruments are needed for every scheduled rehearsal day and performance. Not having your instrument will lower your grade.
2. All instruments are expected to be clean and in excellent repair with extra accessories (oil, swab, reed, etc.) at all times.
3. The directors will conduct inspections periodically
4. If you are physically unable to play, please bring a note from your doctor, parents, or school nurse. If you are at school, you can plan to sit with your instrument and finger your part. Without a note, you will be expected to fully participate in class.
5. **Label your instrument case** with name, address, phone #, and CCCMS Band. Parents should write down the brand name and serial # in case the instrument is misplaced or stolen.
6. There will be ABSOLUTELY NO gum, food, or beverage in the band room with the exception of **water in spill proofed bottles**. Damage can be done by spilling things on instruments and by eating/drinking before or during rehearsals. There will be exceptions to this policy only with director permission. If you have had something to eat or drink prior to rehearsal or a performance, rinse your mouth out thoroughly with water before playing. Failure to do so will result in the build-up of grime inside wind instruments.
7. Percussion equipment is to be played **ONLY** by percussionists. It is the percussion section's responsibility to carefully store equipment after each rehearsal/performance. Occasionally, the percussion section or director may request additional help with set-up/tear down.

If an instrument is needed on a rental basis, see the band director ASAP. Instruments can be rented on a limited basis over the summer, by semester, or for the year. A semester fee of \$30 will be charged for all school owned instruments and a rental agreement form will need to be filled out and signed. You may opt to pay by the semester or year in advance. Make all checks payable to CCCS Bands and deliver to the band director or the Assistant Band Director.

## UNIFORMS/PERFORMANCE ATTIRE

For concerts, the bands will be required to wear **white shirt (blouse/bottom up shirt) and black pants (or long skirts)**. Leggings, short skirts (above the knee), shorts or yoga pants are not permissible.

## ATTENDANCE

**All band members are most important to the success of the band at any given time!** Participation and attendance is mandatory and required for all rehearsals, performances and other scheduled events. If a student has schedule conflicts with any other school related event, he/she must bring this conflict to the band directors' attention as soon as possible, but at least one week prior to the event, and the band directors will resolve the conflict with the other party. But remember: it is the student's responsibility to let the band directors know.

If a band member is sick or is absent because of other personal reasons, the student's parents should inform the band director as soon as possible. The best way to communicate absences is to **email [danielathrasher@usd379.org](mailto:danielathrasher@usd379.org)**.

For regular rehearsal, be in your seats no later than **2:53 pm**, warm up and make sure, you have all the necessary equipment, music etc.

For concerts, the rule is to be back stage **no later than 45 minutes prior to the beginning of the concert/event**. The band room will generally open 60 minutes prior to an event or a call time will be communicated.

## GRADING

50 % Performance attendance, rehearsal attendance  
Band is a performance class. Missing a performance for an unexcused reason will seriously damage a student's grade. Rehearsals allow us to perform our music at the highest level possible. You are expected to be at all rehearsals and performances. If there is a conflict with another school activity, talk to the band directors ASAP.

25 % Daily Class work (i. e. having instrument, music, pencil/eraser, being on time to class, having a positive attitude, behavior, being prepared etc.)

25 % Playing tests, and written assignments



**All rules, policies and expectations set forth by the Clay Center Community Middle School Student Handbook apply to the band program (including dress code, drug policies etc.).**

## **CALENDAR**

See attached the CCCS Bands Calendar and the "Handbook Acknowledgement" form.