

TCHS

TITAN THUNDER REGIMENT



The Band Handbook

Temescal Canyon High School

2008-2009

Tyler Smith, Director of Bands

"Just as there can be no music without education, no education is complete without music."

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*Some of the information included the Band Handbook has been used and adapted from other handbooks and resources. Every effort has been made to give credit to the appropriate directors. Contributions have been made by the following: Scott Rush, Wando High School, Mount Pleasant SC; Brian Steves, Kamiak High School, Mukilteo, WA; Bruce Dinkins, Bowie High School, Austin, TX; Moc Escobedo, Eckstein Middle School, Seattle, WA; Kevin Paustian, Auburn High School, Auburn, WA; Dr. Steven Morrison, University of Washington, Seattle, WA; John Lack, Mead High School, Mead, WA; Dr. Tim Lautzenheiser; Dr. Edward S. Lisk.

Temescal Canyon High School Band

Dear Music Students and Families:

Welcome to 2008-2009 school year at Temescal Canyon High School. We have a lot of great things planned for this year and, as always, parental support will be essential for achieving them. Please bring your cans and bottles to the school for recycling as we have begun collecting them to support the program. We are also continuing to collect printer cartridges and cell phones; so bring those in as you use them up.

Building on our marching success of last year we have commissioned a completely original show that we will be taking to not only the usual SCSBOA tournaments, but also a tournament on the regional Western Band Association circuit.

I have high expectations for the students of TCHS. As a graduate of the school myself, I know what is possible for this band and my goal is to make this the best band this school has ever seen. My focus is on instilling superior musicianship while supplying a superior experience.

The band handbook, generally referred to as "The Handbook," is the document that keeps us running smoothly and efficiently. Most questions can be answered by consulting The Handbook. It is my hope that the content found within The Handbook will serve as both INFORMATION and INSPIRATION! There are many articles that are intended to illuminate why we make music, and how we can improve our band family.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please let me know. I always try to be as accessible as possible. You can reach me by email at tyler.smith@leusd.k12.ca.us or the school phone at 253-7250 ext. 168.

Sincerely,



Tyler Smith



A Few Quick Notes



We ask each student to contribute a fair-share tax-deductible donation of \$300. This is our main source of funding and allows us to provide the high-quality program that we offer. A payment schedule is included later on in The Handbook. This funding provides music, drill, instructors, band t-shirts, sweatshirts, gloves, shoes, socks, flip-folders, and help with other costs throughout the year. Please make all checks payable to TCHS Band Boosters. In an effort to help defer additional costs, we have a very active Band Boosters group. It is my philosophy that no student should be kept out of band for financial reasons. Please speak with me if you need assistance and we can work out alternative arrangements.

In this handbook is a calendar of events for the year as I know them so far. A few dates have changed from the summer newsletter. Typically, once I send out a schedule, it is pretty well written in stone. There may be minor changes, but I will always provide plenty of notice if there are. Two things that are not included are football playoffs and basketball pep band. Once those are known, I will get information out promptly. Also missing are spring concert festivals and the end of the year trip. Again, once I know the dates, I will let you know.

As the band has done previously, we will again be going on an optional Spring Trip in May. This year the kids have chosen San Francisco. There will be much more detailed information forthcoming, but be aware that there will be a non-refundable deposit to reserve a spot due on September 2. The travel company is still working on cost, but it should be in the neighborhood of \$800-\$900 for 3 nights, 4 days. This will include transportation, some food, music festival and various activities.

We need chaperones that have been cleared through the district. They now require that all chaperones have a current TB test (within last 12 months) and be fingerprinted. This can be arranged through Personnel by contacting Sally at sally.highland@leusd.k12.ca.us. You can get the paperwork through me.

Marching practices have changed from zero period to two evening rehearsals. They will be Mondays from 5-8 and Thursdays from 6-8. Students will still get credit for the time as a class. Since a class must meet five hours a week, missing a Monday rehearsal is like missing 3 days of classes and missing a Thursday rehearsal is like missing two days of classes.

I will schedule no last minute activities in this band. Therefore, attendance is essential and mandatory. Any performances will be scheduled as far in advance as possible. If a performance comes up at the last minute, I will take a survey to see how many students are available before committing to it.

In order to ensure that you have the most up to date information, please see that you are receiving emails from the band gmail account. The address is [mightytr@gmail.com](mailto:mightyttr@gmail.com). If you are not getting the emails, please let me know and I'll have you put on there.

Reasons to Pursue Music

Music is a Science

Music is exact, specific, and it demands rigorous control of acoustics. A conductor's full score is a chart - a graph that indicates frequencies, intensities, volume changes, melody and harmony all at once and with precise control of time. The laws of physics are involved with every tone that is performed.

Music is Mathematical

The organization of notes in music is rhythmically based on the division of time into differing fractions within a measured unit, which may vary in length from unit to unit. The mental gymnastics required to perform this must be done instantaneously, not worked out on paper, and with complete coordination of the fingers, lips and other appendages of the body needed to produce that note.

Music is a Foreign Language

Much like learning to read, reading music is learning an entirely new language built on symbols, and uses many of the same brain functions. Recent research indicates that the study of music improves verbal memory. In addition, the terms in music are, for the most part, French, Italian and German. Music is the most universal of all languages: music is played the same way in the United States as it is throughout the world.

Music is History

Music usually reflects the environment and era of its creation. Sometimes even the nationalistic sentiment of the country from which it is composed. Music has been entwined with religion, philosophy, science, upper and lower classes from every region of the world.

Music is a Social Study

Participation in any ensemble, regardless of size, involves close relationships with others, both musical and non-musical. A large performance organization is a microcosm of the adult world students are about to enter. Both musical and non-musical responsibilities are assigned to each band member, with the success of the entire organization dependent upon people meeting their responsibilities. All students will be expected to assume a leadership role at one time or another.

Music is Physical Education

Music requires coordination of fingers, hands, arms, lips, cheeks and facial muscles, in addition to extraordinary control of the diaphragm, back, stomach and chest muscles which respond instantly to the sound heard in the ears and interpreted in the mind. Not to mention the physical demands required of a marching band.

Music is Art

Music allows a human being to take these individual techniques for creating sound and use them to generate emotion. Music gives words to what cannot be said.

This Is Why We Teach Music.

Not because you plan to major in music, not so you can relax, not so you will have fun (although you will), but so you will be human, will recognize beauty, will be sensitive, will have more compassion, gentleness, love and understanding, and will create more that is good in life.

Objectives of the Band Program

- To teach music by its actual performance
- To develop performance skills of the various wind and percussion instruments
- To provide for the musical needs of the school and community
- To acquaint students with music theory and history
- To provide all students with the opportunity for worthy use of their time, a means for self expression, and a healthy social experience
- To develop the ability to function as a responsible member of a group, enhance interaction, and develop Esprit de Corps
- To foster leadership skills within each student

Fair Share Tax Deductible Donation

In order to keep this band program running we request that each student contribute or raise through fundraising \$300. Since we are a non-profit this is a tax-deductible donation. The requested payment schedule is listed below. Please make checks payable to TCHS Band Boosters.

Contributions have to be collected by the published due dates in order for the Boosters to meet their contractual commitments and make payments for which funding must be available. Failure for the Boosters to meet their financial obligations, due to a lack of family donations or due to poor participation in fundraising, can jeopardize planned events, competitions, and other learning opportunities for the students. LEUSD, TCHS, and the TCHS Band Boosters work in partnership to provide opportunities for the students of the TCHS Band Program. Support from the TCHS Band Boosters is an essential source of funding in order to maintain aspects of the program.

All checks should be made out to "TCHS Band Boosters". All checks need to include the student's name, what the check is for, and the check signer's phone number. The bank fee must be paid by the check writer on all returned checks (NSF). If a second check is returned for non-sufficient funds, all future transactions with the Boosters will have to be made by cash or through money order. Cash or check may be used to make payment through the Booster Treasurer or Mr. Smith.

Multiple Student Discount

Families with more than one student participant, residing in the same household, will receive a \$50 discount for the second participating student and \$100 discount per additional sibling after the second one.

Financial Hardship Program

If an individual family has financial hardships that make on-time payment of the "Fair Share Tax Deductible Donation" impossible, the Director can help to make special arrangements. Families in these circumstances should contact the Director at the earliest

possible time to ensure that arrangements are completed prior to the first payment. Special fund-raisers may be recommended to help raise the needed funds.

Payment Schedule: Sep 2: \$50

Oct. 1: \$50

Nov. 3: \$50

Dec. 1: \$50

Jan. 13: \$50

Feb 2: \$50

General Fund: There are many things required to make the program operate which we finance through fundraising above the Fair Share Donation. It will cost about \$500-\$600 per student to meet the requirements of our program this year, not including the spring trip. If not for fundraising, this entire burden would fall upon the students. Similar band programs often charge \$600-\$1,000 or more per student, not including trips, so we are quite a bargain. In lieu of fundraising, you may opt to contribute toward the general fund instead. In addition, if you can afford to pay any extra towards our scholarship fund at any time we would greatly appreciate it. This goes to benefit students that have financial difficulties.

Please make all checks out to TCHS Band Boosters

Fundraising:

There are a number of opportunities for students to earn money throughout the year. We employ a system of individual student accounts, wherein we keep track of what a student has earned and that money can be applied toward the Spirit Pack or Spring Trip.

The first major fundraiser to be thinking about is the Auction on November 8th. Last year we raised about \$5,000 and we hope to exceed that this year. Please begin to think about items that you can either donate or help acquire for the auction. Items do not necessarily need to be tangible, but can be services as well.

There are always students that have difficulty affording the expenses of the band. With this in mind, we do have a scholarship fund. If at any time you can pay a little extra to help cover the expenses of another student we would very much appreciate it. Simply designate what portion of your payment you would like applied to the scholarship fund.

The Temescal Canyon Band Boosters is our largest means of financial support and therefore extremely important. Meetings are generally held the second Tuesday of every month. More parent involvement means a better experience for the students. Toward the back of this handbook, there is an extremely important form we need filled out by all parents.

Uniform Requirements:

MARCHING BAND

School Provided Parts: Jacket, Pants, Shako, Plume, Black Socks, Gloves, Band Shirt

Student Provided Parts: Shoes (\$30), replacement gloves (\$5)

CONCERT BAND

Men: Tuxedo, black socks, black dress shoes (marching shoes may be used).

Women: Black full-length dress, black hose and black dress shoes.

Further concert attire information will be forthcoming.

Fines:

At the end of the year fines will be assessed for materials missing or damaged materials that were checked out to the student. Common fines: original sheet music (\$2 per page), uniform parts, text books/method books (\$7-\$15), damaged instruments, damaged uniform. Outstanding costs must be paid before receiving a final report card.

Band Curriculum in Brief

Concert Band

The Concert Band is the primary performing organization of the band program. This ensemble plays literature of the highest and most mature music available at this level. Membership in this ensemble requires previous experience on an instrument.

Marching Band

All students enrolled in the band program are required to march. The marching band utilizes high quality literature and puts it on the field and the street. The marching band performs field shows in the fall and parades throughout the year.

Jazz Ensemble

Students may elect to audition for jazz band. To be a member of the Jazz Band a student must be concurrently enrolled in one of the larger ensembles. The Jazz Band performs throughout the year at concerts and community events.

Percussion Ensemble

This ensemble includes both winter drumline and concert percussion. Students have the opportunity to learn all the instruments of the percussion family.

Colorguard

Students who are interested in dance, choreography and movement may choose to audition for our marching auxiliary unit, the colorguard. Colorguard is an extension of the marching band.

Other Music Opportunities

Leadership Workshop

This leadership workshop prepares students to become effective leaders within the band program and beyond. This workshop is required of all students who wish to be considered for leadership. The workshop is tentatively scheduled for the afternoon of Wednesday, September 3.

Summer Instruction

There are many nationally known summer institutes for instrumental instruction. Some of the best are Interlochen Arts Camp, and Tanglewood. There are many regional summer camps as well such as the California Music Academy.

Private Lessons

As one might expect, private lessons on a musical instrument are the best way to improve performance skills. The one-on-one approach allows the student to benefit from the individual attention as opposed to a teacher monitoring a class of over 40. A recent survey of students in the All-State Band revealed that approximately 80% of the students in the band studied privately. Students are generally more inclined to practice diligently for a weekly music assignment and this discipline increases the students' enjoyment with their instrument. I will be more than happy to assist in the selection of a private teacher. Also try www.TheMasterMusician.com for local teachers.

Honor Bands

Members of the band program are eligible to audition for various honor groups. I will make this information available as I get it.

Attendance Policy:

THE ONLY EXCUSED ABSENCES ARE PRE-ARRANGED SCHOOL CONFLICTS AND THOSE THAT WOULD BE EXCUSED BY LEUSD ATTENDANCE POLICY.

EXCUSED ABSENCES

Excused absences that have been properly pre-arranged or are caused by illness or family emergency can be made up with an excused absence form. Work, homework, birthdays and vacations are examples of unexcused absences. Students must complete a make-up assignment by the end of the semester to receive grade credit for excused absences. Excused absences that are not made up by the end of the semester will be converted to zero in the gradebook. As performances are the largest portion of the student's grade, this will have a severe impact.

EXCUSED TARDIES

Excused tardies must be properly pre-arranged with the director and may include school sports games or medical appointments. Both excused and unexcused tardy students will be placed in the "Feet Club." These students will remain at practice

for an extra 15 minutes after rehearsal to work marching fundamentals. Unexcused tardies will also receive reduced credit for the practice.

Unexcused absences cannot be made up, and will adversely affect the student's grade. The number of performances determines the amount of grade loss for that quarter by percentage. Repeated unexcused absences may result in loss of travel privileges, or even ensemble membership.

The importance of attendance cannot be overstated. Excused absences are not given out readily. Please understand that every musician plays an important role. To be missing even one musician from a rehearsal or performance has a huge impact on the ensemble. There are no benchwarmers or back-ups in band.

Conflicts with Band

Conflicts between band and other activities or events are the responsibility of the student. Rehearsal and performance schedules are given at the beginning of the year so that arrangements can be made. Students should not become involved with activities that may directly conflict with band activities. When outside activities create hardships concerning band, the student will need to consult with the director about alternatives that may be possible. Students are each given a copy of the schedule and should be aware of all band dates well ahead of time. It is the policy of the band to assist students when conflicts occur within the scope of the band policy. Students are reminded that band is a very demanding activity and that involvement in outside activities should be limited to those that are compatible with the band schedule. All conflicts in regard to **performances** must be worked out in favor of the student's responsibility to band. Work, birthdays and vacations are not an excuse for missing any band activity.

Grading Policy:

35% PERFORMANCES and ADDITIONAL REHEARSALS

Students must attend all scheduled Band performances and evening marching rehearsals. Evaluations will include attendance, proper uniform, behavior and set-up/tear-down participation. Students must complete the "Excused Absence" form **two weeks before a performance and twenty-four hours before a rehearsal** to receive a make-up assignment. Unexcused absences cannot be made up, and **will lower a student's grade.**

35% PLAYING, AND OTHER TESTS

Student mastery of various music topics, including instrumental technique, articulation, tone, phrasing, literature, excerpts, memorization, etc. will be evaluated throughout each semester. Instrumental skills will be evaluated either in a live or taped format. All students should have access to recording devices, or be prepared to record tape tests after school or during lunch periods with school equipment. During Marching Band season there will be memory tests of the field show music. Any paperwork that

requires a parent signature will also be factored into this grade. There will also be periodic pencil and material checks.

20% DAILY REHEARSAL PARTICIPATION

This grade will include observations of equipment care, attendance of and punctuality to rehearsals, rehearsal concentration, and effort made during rehearsals. In addition, attendance will be taken at all call times. Tardiness is unacceptable and will adversely affect your grade for the performance by 25%.

10% LISTENING AND JOURNALS

Guided listening and journal assignments will be held during class time. It is the student's responsibility to make up journals and assignments for excused absences. Journals and Listening assignments are evaluated at the end of each quarter, with emphasis Ideas & Content and use of Voice from the "Six Traits" curriculum. These assignments cannot be made up if an absence is unexcused.

Equipment Needs:

Please be aware that the school district is not responsible for nor insures students' instruments. Homeowners insurance is usually the coverage that a parent would check with for coverage.

All students must bring a *pencil* and all of their music to class everyday. In addition, the following materials are either required or strongly recommended for each instrument. Please look at this list carefully and help to ensure that the student has access to all of these materials.

Marching Band can be hard on woodwind instruments and it is recommended that students get a cheap instrument to be used in the rain.

<u>Instrument</u>	<u>Required Equipment</u>	<u>Recommended</u>
Flute, piccolo	tuning rod, soft cloth, marching lyre	small screwdriver set, pad saver
Oboe/Bassoon	swab, soft cloth, cup, two reeds	more reeds, reed case, small screwdriver set, reed making equipment
Clarinet	swab, soft cloth, five reeds, cork grease, marching lyre	more reeds, reed case, small screwdriver set, pad saver
Saxophone	swab, soft cloth, five reeds, cork grease, marching lyre,	Jazz and Classical mouthpiece, more reeds

Trumpet	valve oil, tuning slide grease straight mute, cup mute, marching lyre (optional)	plunger mute, harmon mute, bucket mute, different mouthpieces
Horn	valve oil, slide grease, valve string	straight mute
Trombone	slide cream, spray bottle, slide grease, marching lyre	cup mute, plunger mute, different mouthpieces
Euphonium/ Tuba	valve oil, slide grease, marching lyre (optional)	
Percussion	drum sticks (marching and general), Real Feel practice pad, stick bag, 3-ring binder, with sheet protectors	brushes, pitch-pipe, mallets: rubber, yarn, brass,

Additional materials:

*All wind students will need a marching flip folder and most instruments require a lyre. The flip folder will be provided by the band. The lyre is specific to each instrument and should be purchased at a music store (be very careful to get the correct lyre). Percussion should get a black 3-ring binder with plenty of clear plastic sheets to put music into instead of a flip folder. Each student should also have a tuner and metronome for individual practice.

Instrument and Mouthpiece Upgrades

Mouthpieces

The easiest and most cost effective way to improve an instrument is with a better quality mouthpiece. With most reed instruments the mouthpiece provided is totally inadequate and should be discarded. Here are some recommended mouthpieces:

- Clarinet.....Van Doren B40 or B45 Mouthpieces
DEG Barrels
Rovner Ligatures
- Saxophone..... Selmer C
- Trumpet.....Bach 3C or 1½C
- Horn.....Schilke 29 or 30
- Trombone.....Bach 5G or 4G
Schilke 51 or 51D
- Tuba.....Helleberg 120 S

Instruments (Intermediate and Professional Models)

As students improve it becomes necessary to upgrade instruments as well. These are well respected and reliable instrument models. However, always seek the advice of an experienced musician before making this sort of investment.

Piccolo.....	Yamaha YPC 62
Flute.....	Yamaha 581 H
Clarinet.....	Buffet R-13
Oboe.....	Loree or Fox 400
Bassoon.....	Fox Renard 220 or 222
Saxophone.....	Old Selmer Mark VI or Yamaha Custom
Trumpet.....	Bach Stradivarius
Horn.....	Paxman M20, Holton 179 or Conn 8D
Trombone.....	Bach 42 B, BO or Edwards
Euphonium.....	Yamaha 321 - S or Wilson
Tuba.....	See Director

Method and Etude Books

Every musician should have a variety of books from which to practice. This is one of the best ways to come up with sight-reading material as well. These are all standard books for each instrument, but there are many other great method and etude books.

Flute	Rubank Intermediate Method Rubank Advanced Method Altes Method Art and Practice of Modern Flute Technique - Kincaid Eck Method/Practical Studies/Tone Development
Clarinet	Rubank Intermediate Method Rubank Advanced Method Klose Celebrated Method for Clarinet Rose: 40 Studies for Clarinet, Book 1 Melodious and Progressive Studies - Hite
Oboe	50 Classical Studies for the Oboe - Joppig Rubank Advanced Method Andraud Practical and Progressive Method Barrett Oboe Method
Bassoon	Rubank Intermediate Method Rubank Advanced Method Weissenborn Practical Method for Bassoon
Saxophone	Rubank Intermediate Method Rubank Advanced Method Universal Method for Sax - DeVille

	Gatti: 35 Melodious and Technical Exercises
Trumpet	Rubank Intermediate Method Rubank Advanced Method Arban Complete Conservatory Method Herbert L Clarke Technical Studies Scholssberg Daily Drills and Technical Studies
Horn	Rubank Intermediate Method Rubank Advanced Method Kopprasch – Sixty Selected Studies for Horn (Vol. 1 & 2) Concone - Lyrical Studies for Horn or Trumpet
Trombone/Euphonium	Rubank Intermediate Method Rubank Advanced Method Rochut Melodious Etudes Book I and II Arban Method for Trombone/Euphonium Schlossberg Daily Drills Clarke Method for Trombone/Euphonium
Tuba	Rubank Intermediate Method Rubank Advanced Method Bordogni Melodious Etudes Blazevich Etudes (Vol. 1 and 2)

Recordings

It is impossible for an instrumentalist to duplicate a characteristic sound on his or her instrument without an appropriate model to emulate. Below are suggestions of artists for each instrument. Every student in the band program should own at least one recording of the following artists respective to his or her instrument. Many of these recordings can be found online at www.crystalrecords.com.

Flute.....	Jean-Pierre Rampal, Jim Walker
Clarinet.....	Harold Wright, Larry Combs
Oboe.....	Joseph Robinson, John Mack
Bassoon.....	Bubonic Bassoon Quartet, Christopher Millard
Saxophone.....	Jean Rousseau, Joseph Lulloff, Steven Mauk
Trumpet.....	Phil Smith, Adolph Herseth
Horn.....	Dale Clevenger, Dennis Brain
Trombone.....	Joseph Alessi, Christian Linberg
Euphonium.....	Brian Bowman, Roger Behrend
Tuba.....	Arnold Jacobs, Sam Pilafian, Gene Pokorny, Roger Bobo

Helpful Websites for Music

Sheet Music

JW Pepper: www.jwpepper.com

Hickey's Music: www.hickeys.com

Instruments

Woodwind and Brasswind: www.wwbw.com

Steve Weiss Percussion: www.steveweissmusic.com

Music Support and Advocacy

Music Educator's National Conference: www.menc.org

Washington Music Educator's Association: www.wmea.org

Music For All: www.music-for-all.org

Music Friends: <http://www.musicfriends.org/>

Support Music: www.supportmusic.org

Instrumental Organizations

National Flute Association: www.nfaonline.org

International Clarinet Association: www.clarinet.org

International Double Reed Society: www.idrs.org

North American Saxophone Alliance: www.saxalliance.org

International Trumpet Guild: www.trumpetguild.org

International Horn Society: www.hornsociety.org

International Trombone Association: www.ita-web.org

International Tuba and Euphonium Association: www.iteaonline.org

Percussive Arts Society: www.pas.org

Marching Band

Marching Arts Directory: www.marchingarts.com

Marching.com: www.marching.com

Drum Corps International: www.dci.org

Student's Responsibility to the Band

As members of this organization, you have a great deal of responsibility. It is essential that you uphold these responsibilities for the program to succeed.

To Ourselves

YOU have the primary responsibility for developing your own abilities. The benefits of a good instrument and private instruction can never be underestimated. What you put into it is what you will get out of it. The director is ALWAYS available for your guidance and encouragement – just ask.

To the School

Temescal Canyon High School provides us with resources for rehearsals, performances and equipment. The Temescal Canyon Band Boosters also provide a support network financially. WE have the responsibility to provide the best possible music to our school and community.

To Music

Music has been a part of every culture that has existed. No one expects virtuoso musicians, only your very best! The great composer Gustav Mahler once said that only 10% of music is on the page. It is our responsibility as musicians to create the other 90%. The joy of music is not in everything that is apparent. It must be discovered and created.

To Each Other

We must always do what is best for the welfare of the group. There can be no selfish acts solely for the benefit of the individual. Remember that there are a lot of people counting on each other. Respect one another. If there are conflicts, find a way to resolve them. Never insult another band member's integrity. The word "band" means that we are banded together and that there is no separation.

Parent's Responsibility to the Band

It is the responsibility of every parent and guardian to see that the policies outlined in The Handbook are followed and that the forms in the back are signed and returned. This states that you understand the policies as set within, and that any questions are to be directed to the band director. Each parent is responsible for the attendance of his or her child at all band functions. It is the responsibility of each parent to see that his or her child practices daily. The hands of the director are tied without the help of parents.

Parent help: you do not need to wait to ask to help. If you see a need or have ideas that would make things easier: come forward. Quite often, the best ideas come from parents that see a more efficient way.

How Parents Can Help

- Show an interest in the music study of your child.
- Make faithful attendance at all band activities a priority (It means more to your child than they will ever let you know).
- Arrange a regular time for your child to practice.
- Find a quiet place where he or she can practice without interruption.
- Listen to performances of practice material, when asked to do so.
- Help the student keep a daily record of practicing.
- Come up with a reward system of your own for daily practice.
- Keep the instrument in good repair and get a tuner and metronome.
- Teach your child to be prepared and on time to each rehearsal and activity.
- Provide private instruction!
- Turn in money on time
- Buy your child a personal planner for marking important dates.
- Notify the teacher if the student is to be absent for rehearsals.
- Visit rehearsals occasionally (either during or after school)
- Attend booster meetings

Duties of the Band Member

The Importance of Attitude

The single greatest factor that will determine the success of any individual or organization is **attitude**. The kind of person that you are is an individual choice and how we feel about something, which involves attitude, is one of the few actual independent choices that we have in life. It takes intense dedication to reach goals. Students should learn to discipline themselves to daily practice on fundamentals. The “right attitude” must be present along with sincerity, concentration and dedication as the basic foundation. Such an attitude makes an artistic performance inevitable and is the difference between a winning organization and a mediocre group. The band can do much for you. Make the most of it in every rehearsal and performance.

The Importance of Discipline

Because of the nature of the organization, band discipline must be strict. Band students and parents must believe in the ideals, principles and philosophy of the organization. Each member must always be aware of good behavior and think for him or herself. Any misconduct casts a bad light on the school, community and band program. Any member who casts discredit to the organization by his or her conduct or actions in band, in another class, or on a trip, all be subject to dismissal from the band program or may lose privileges within the program. This may include the chance to go on trips. This decision will be at the director’s discretion.

Procedures

- Be on time to all rehearsal and performances. EARLY IS ON TIME - ON TIME IS LATE - LATE IS INEXCUSABLE.
- Come to rehearsal with a positive attitude.
- Upon entering the rehearsal setting, check the board for agenda, acquire your instrument and go directly to your seat or field depending upon ensemble.
- Percussionists must set up all equipment and music during the warm-up period.
- Begin warming up appropriately (either music or marching depending).
- When the staff member asks for your attention, all talking should cease.
- Talking should be kept to an absolute minimum during rehearsal.
- Play music with passion.
- If you must leave for any reason, please ask. Do not leave your seat without permission. Restroom breaks should be taken between classes.
- At the end of rehearsal put all materials in their proper place. Chairs and stands should be stacked, instruments should go in assigned spot and music in assigned cubby.
- As Francis McBeth said, “The purpose of practice is to learn your part, the purpose of rehearsal is to learn everyone else’s.”

- Become responsible for and assume responsibility for your own actions. Admit when you are wrong
- Have a proper respect for yourself, your peers and those in authority.

Rules

General

- Drinking and drugs are STRICTLY PROHIBITED. All school district policies regarding such are in force during any band activity.
- All school rules, including no smoking, will be enforced.
- Maintain a strong academic standing in all course work.

Band Room

- Students are only allowed in the Band Room when an instructor is present, or when specific permission is granted.
- Always keep the room clean and orderly.
- Students must ask to use the band stereo.
- Cell phones and other electronic devices are not allowed during rehearsal.
- Chewing gum is not permitted in the band room or during rehearsal.
- Food and drink (except water) are not permitted in the band room.
- Be in your seat, warmed up and ready to begin on time.
- Respect others, including their personal property.
- There will be no horseplay, i.e. throwing of things, in or around the bandroom.
- All percussion and guard equipment is off limits to anyone not specifically designated to use them.
- No storing of personal items - THE BANDROOM IS NOT A LOCKER!

Marching Rehearsal

- All practices are mandatory.
- An excuse form must be requested well in advance for any difficulties.
- If a student is absent from school, this does not excuse the student from evening rehearsal. Someone must contact the director at the band office.
- Sturdy shoes and socks must be worn at all times for outside practices.
- Rehearsals will begin at indicated time.
- Do not play outside of the band room until we play as a group.
- Unexcused and Excused tardies will participate in the "Feet Club."

Band Uniforms

- A band member must respect his or her uniform and wear it properly at all times.

- A band member will wear no exposed jewelry while in uniform. Only watches will be permitted (except in competition).
- Hair must be kept neat and easy to put under the shako.
- Always hang up uniform properly. Pants must be folded along crease.
- No eating or drinking is allowed while in full uniform. Water is the only thing permitted for consumption while in full uniform.
- No public displays of affection while in uniform.
- You are responsible for the uniform checked out under your name. DO NOT TRADE parts or you will be liable for any damage.
- You must return the same hanger you were issued. Other plastic and wire hangers are too flimsy to support the uniforms.
- DO NOT use duct tape to hem your uniform. See Mr. Smith as soon as you need something altered. Don't wait!

Football Games

- Report time for all games will be announced on Thursday prior to the game. Typically, call time is one hour before game time.
- Students must wear full uniform. It is ALL or NOTHING unless specific permission is granted otherwise.
- Students will be dismissed following the announcements in the bandroom. No one is to leave prior to this.
- When marching to and from the stadium, the band will remain at ATTENTION. When you have class IT SHOWS - when you don't, IT SHOUTS!
- Only uniformed band members are allowed in the band section.
- All members are to remain in their "section."
- There will be no eating or drinking in the stands. The band will have the third quarter off and must be back before the clock runs down for the quarter. We will begin playing as soon as the third quarter is over.
- All members should be alert as to what is going on down front. Be ready to react immediately to instructions given by the drum major or director.
- If the football team goes to playoffs, so will the band.

Basketball Games

- The band is split up into two pep bands to alleviate the burden of too many games.
- If you cannot attend a pep band to which you were assigned, you MUST coordinate a sub and have it approved by the director.
- Students may attend any additional games that they wish and will receive extra credit for doing so.
- The uniform is the current year band shirt, blue jeans and tennis shoes. Shirts must be tucked in.
- If the basketball team goes to playoffs, so will the full band.

Band Traveling

- Report to the Band Room prior to the call time (remember early is on time).
- Take the time to make a mental checklist of all necessary equipment: instrument, music, reeds, oil, etc.
- The Percussion Section Leader is responsible for percussion equipment, including auxiliary percussion equipment.
- All Band members are expected to assist with carrying equipment onto the buses or other vehicles.
- Treat the bus driver and the bus with respect, using good manners and being responsible for trash.
- Always thank chaperones as often as possible.
- All district and school rules also apply to trips away from school. Failure to abide by those rules may result in the student's dismissal from the trip.

Hotel Situations

- Parents and students will be responsible for paying any incurred charges, including lost room keys.
- There will be no one of opposite sex allowed in rooms unless the door is open.
- Do not play instruments in room.
- All school rules will be enforced on trips.
- No one is to leave the hotel alone. Any student found leaving the premises without permission will be dealt with severely.
- Profanity is not a part of our organization. Make sure that your language is not offensive.
- Band members are expected to be at the right place, at the right time, ready to go!

Competitions

Competitions are special events where we get to perform for a sophisticated audience and very competent judges. WE ARE THERE TO DO OUR BEST - NOT TO WIN! If we do our best, then everything will take care of itself. Specific information is given prior to competitions as to directions, departure and anticipated return time. All parents are encouraged to attend competitions and support the band. Students may use the band phone to call following a trip. Parents, please come immediately when called.

Concert Band Procedures

Auditions

These will be held two or three times throughout the year to determine chair placement. Auditions will be announced well in advance and will consist of scales,

technique, and a required solo. In some cases, students with a higher score will be put on a lower part to achieve balance or to allow a younger student to develop his or her range.

Materials Grade

Each student must have the following items in class every day:

- A sharpened pencil
- Your instrument (sticks, mallets)
- Your music and folder
- At least five reeds (clarinets and saxophones), spray bottle (trombones)
- At least two reeds (oboes and bassoons) and water canisters for soaking

There will be periodic checks for various items on the list throughout the year.

School-Owned Instrument Policy

Each student who uses a school-owned instrument is completely responsible for the care of the instrument. If an instrument is damaged due to negligence, the student is responsible for the entire cost. An instrument check-out form must be filled out and on file with the director.

C.A.R.E.

by Dr. Tim Lautzenheiser

What makes a musical ensemble special? What creates that magical atmosphere we have come to know as the foundation of a musical family? Perhaps it is all based on the ability to C.A.R.E. If one examines the common themes of great music programs, the best organizations always focus on the C.A.R.E. of their fellow members, their directors, and all those connected with the music program. Does our group C.A.R.E.?

The acronym is more than a clever label; it is the essence of why any group becomes successful. It is the elusive indescribable climate we all recognize, but often overlook in our quest for quality. This acronym provides the forum we all need to achieve a high level of musical excellence.

To C.A.R.E means:

Communication: Is there open and safe communication among the members of the group? Do the upperclassmen spend time with the new members? Do various sections of the ensemble work together with a unified understanding? We know communication is the key to all forward motion and problem resolution. Encourage one another to reach out to other members of the group; harmony and balance apply to more than great music making.

Attitude: What kind of attitude do the group members generate? Do people look forward to the time together in an environment based on positive support and encouragement? Since every individual has total control over his or her attitude, this may be the most important area of personal contribution to the musical family. There is no substitute for a healthy attitude; it is as important as good intonation.

Responsibility: The word literally means “the ability to respond.” Do people seriously embrace their responsibilities? Do they come to rehearsals ready to invest their efforts and energies for the ongoing growth and development of the ensemble’s goals? Do they understand their personal contribution (both positive and negative) plays a crucial role in the outcome of the ensemble’s success? Does the group respond to the director in a fashion that will advance the entire organization to the next level of artistry?

Excellence: Is “excellence” the key word for everything connected with the program? Excellence is the by-product of seeking quality, and quality can be applied to every aspect of life. Whether it is putting away music after a practice, straightening the rehearsal room, or practicing scales, all of these (plus every other action) need to reflect a sense of excellence, to “excel,” to go beyond the requirements, to put forth the extra effort.

Don’t chase the dream by going on trips, buying new equipment, or even by changing music directors; you will be sorely disappointed. The answer lies within the members of the ensemble. When the people *in a musical group* decide to unselfishly *give to the musical group*, it’s then that we realize the value of *the ensemble*, a gathering of wonderful young musicians who genuinely C.A.R.E. for one another.

TIPS FOR PRACTICING

As with any activity, you get out of it what you put into it. Band will not be “fun” unless you practice. There are many values in the study of music as a discipline that transfer to other areas of life. Although this will not immediately happen, persistent practice will lead to enthusiastic, driven practice. Remember: “Perfect practice makes perfect. Here is a suggested plan of study:

Pick a set time each day	Use a tuner for a portion of your session
Have an acoustically dry place of practice	Increase dynamic range (soft and loud)
Use our daily warm-up & think “tone”	Increase endurance
Play some form of scales at every session	Increase range (low and high with good tone)
Take a break every 20 minutes	Use a metronome for part of the time
Work on technique	Use a practice record to log practice time
Practice sight-reading	

Ratio Method

1. **Warm up (1/4).** Warm up your instrument and your brain by tuning and playing slow scales
2. **Work on technique (1/4).** Play exercises or etudes. Make it harder for yourself by using different phrasing or different speeds.
3. **Work on something difficult (1/4).** Choose a piece from your folder and find a difficult spot. Helpful hints:
 - a. Play it slowly
 - b. Work only on small chunks (don’t play through whole piece)
 - c. Use a metronome and tuner
 - d. Tape record yourself to hear how you really sound
 - e. Speed it up a little at a time
4. **Play an entire piece or two (1/8).** This makes you feel good after working slowly on a difficult passage. Music is supposed to be fun. Play a piece twice and try to improve it the second time.
5. **Try to sight-read some music every practice(1/8).** See how good you are at reading music for the first time. This is a skill that must be practiced. Do not be tempted to stop and fix things. Just read it down with mistakes and all. You can add the piece to another part of your practice routine later.

The four pillars of good playing:

Tone - Intonation - Posture - Scales

Keep your instrument clean and in good playing condition

Remember, **Practice makes permanent.** Never practice badly or you will play badly. Only practice with the best sound in your head and that is the sound that will come out your horn.

EXCUSED ABSENCE FORM

This form must be completed and turned in three weeks in advance of any anticipated absence by a band student (Excluding extreme emergencies). In addition, the student must fill out an Alternate Assignment Form (obtained after approval of absence) to make up the missed grade. This includes rehearsals and performances. Unexcused absences cannot be made up.

Student Name _____

Today's date _____

Date of anticipated Absence _____

Reason for absence

*Please be specific! The policy is quite simple - if the school will excuse it, I will excuse it. If the school will not, I will not. "Important matters" or "family matters" are not considered excusable by the school.

Temescal Canyon High School will excuse for Death in the Family, Religious Holiday, and Illness with a Doctor's Excuse. The doctor's excuse must be submitted with the school and a copy placed on file with the band director.

Parent Signature

Student Signature

All forms must be submitted to the Director of Bands and will remain on file in the band office for a period of a year.

Director's Signature

Date _____

Letter of Mutual Consent

I, _____,
(student name)

affirm that I have read and understand the Temescal Canyon High School Band Handbook. I further affirm that I will abide by the rules, regulations, and intent of this Handbook, and understand the penalties for not doing so. I understand that an unexcused absence from a rehearsal or performance will seriously affect my grade in Band. I have had all questions concerning the content of this Handbook answered and will do my best to live up to the intent of this contract.

Student Signature _____

Date _____

I/We have read the Temescal Canyon High School Band Handbook and have discussed it with my/our child. I/We will do our best to encourage him/her to abide by the rules and regulations of the Band.

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Parent Signature _____

Parent/Guardian Phone _____

Parent Email(s) _____

Address _____

Date _____

____ check here if you would not like to have your information distributed among parents for the purpose of a phone tree.

Please return this page by **Monday, August 18, 2008**

Temescal Canyon High School Band Boosters

All parents of music students please complete this form. If you have already filled out this form, please do so again to ensure that we have the most accurate and up to date information.

Student _____ Graduation Year _____

Parent's/Guardian's Name(s)

Occupations or useful skills _____

Parent Email(s) _____

Phone(s): Home _____ Cell _____

Parent Volunteer Sign Up

The key to a successful program is the support of the parents. A music program cannot operate without your help. You can be of assistance in many ways. There is nothing more rewarding than being an active member of a fine organization, and your involvement speaks volumes about how you value the choices your child makes. Please mark below areas in which you would like to be involved.

- Hospitality
 - Phone
 - Equipment Handling (load, tow and/or set-up equipment)
 - Chaperones
 - Dessert Auction (our MAIN fundraising event)
 - Big Band Dance
 - Finance
 - Uniforms (fittings, maintenance, care & upkeep, sewing)
 - Advisory (legal, financial or other)
 - Communications/Phone Tree
 - Newsletter
 - Public Relations/Publicity
 - Sound Equipment/ Audio/Visual
 - Video (film games, contests, concerts, etc.)
 - Nurse/First Aid
 - Prop Building: carpentry, etc.
 - Website (development, maintenance of Booster or Band website)
- Other area of special interest:** _____