

2017-2018



Charles M. Russell High School Band Handbook

www.cmrbands.net

CMR
Band

Welcome to the band program at CMR. Since 1965 the Charles M. Russell Band has developed a strong tradition of excellence. Your attitude and commitment will determine the quality of your experience as a member of the ensembles at CMR. Please use this handbook as a reference to help answer questions you may have about the band.

"Success is no accident. It is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice and most of all, love of what you are doing or learning to do."--Pele

"The only thing you regret in life are the risks you don't take!" —Grumpy Old Men

**C.M. Russell High School Bands
2017-2018 Performance Schedule**

****SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE****

CONCERTS/FESTIVALS/TOUR				
<u>DATE</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>TIME</u>
October 17	Tuesday	Fall Band Concert (All Bands)	Bill Williamson Hall	7:00 p.m.
October 18-20	Wed.-Fri.	All-State/MMEA	Bozeman	TBA
October 31	Tuesday	Fruit Sale Begins		
November 10-12	Fri.-Sun.	UM All-Star Ensembles (Select Students)	Missoula	TBA
November 27	Monday	Fruit Orders Due		
December 7	Thursday	Fruit Delivery		
December 11	Monday	Holiday Concert 1 (Symphonic/Russtones)	Civic Center	7:00 p.m.
December 19	Tuesday	Holiday Concerts 2 & 3 (Rustler/Maverick)	Bill Williamson Hall	6:00 p.m./8:00 p.m.
January 4-5	Thurs.-Fri.	50th Anniversary Jazz Workshop	GFHS/CMR	TBA
January 23	Tuesday	Showcase Concert	North Middle School	TBA
February 12-13	Mon.-Tues.	AA Orchestra Fest. (Select Winds)	CMR	TBA
February 27	Tuesday	Band Concert (Rustler/Maverick)	Bill Williamson Hall	7:00 p.m.
March 5-6	Mon.-Tues.	AA Band Festival (Symphonic)	CMR	TBA
March 20	Tuesday	MIOSM Concert (Symphonic)	Civic Center	7:00 p.m.
April 19	Thursday	District Festival (All Bands)	GFHS	TBA
April 20	Friday	District Solos & Ensembles	CMR	TBA
May 4	Friday	Performing Arts Assembly (Symphonic & Russtones)	Bill Williamson Hall	8:00 a.m.
May 14	Monday	Instrumental Concert & Awards (Symphonic & Russtones)	Bill Williamson Hall	7:00 p.m.
May 21	Monday	Spring Concert (Rustler & Maverick)	Bill Williamson Hall	7:00 p.m.
May 27	Sunday	Graduation	TBA	TBA
May 28	Monday	Memorial Day Service (Symphonic)	Highland Cemetery	10:00 a.m.
<i>TBA</i>	<i>TBA</i>	<i>Spring Tour (Symphonic)</i>	<i>TBA</i>	<i>TBA</i>

PEP BAND/MARCHING BAND

****SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE****

<u>DATE</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>TIME</u>
August 23	Tuesday	Crosstown Clash--Voyager Baseball Game	Centene Stadium	6:00 p.m.
August 25	Friday	Football--Helena High	TBA	
September 8	Friday	Football--Big Sky	Memorial Stadium	
September 22	Friday	Football--Hellgate	Memorial Stadium	
<i>September 23</i>	<i>Saturday</i>	<i>Super Saturday Marching Rehearsal</i>	<i>CMR</i>	<i>9:00 a.m.</i>
September 26	Tuesday	Volleyball--Great Falls	CMR	6:00 p.m.
October 2	Monday	Powder Puff	Memorial Stadium	6:00 p.m.
<i>October 4</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Marching Band Rehearsal</i>	<i>CMR</i>	<i>Per. 4-7</i>
<i>October 6</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Football--Billings Skyview HOMECOMING</i>	<i>Memorial Stadium</i>	
<i>October 26</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Crosstown Rehearsal</i>	<i>Memorial Stadium</i>	<i>TBA</i>
<i>October 27</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Football--GFHS CROSSTOWN</i>	<i>Memorial Stadium</i>	
October 28	Saturday	Volleyball--West	CMR	12:00 p.m.
November 3	Friday	Football Playoffs/Championship Home games only	TBA	TBA
November 10				
November 17				
December 8	Friday	Boys Basketball--Flathead	CMR	6:30 p.m.
December 9	Saturday	Girls Basketball--Glacier	CMR	3:30 p.m.
January 6	Saturday	Girls Basketball--Butte	CMR	3:30 p.m.
January 11	Thursday	Girls Basketball--Great Falls	CMR	6:30 p.m.
January 19	Friday	Girls Basketball--Bozeman	CMR	6:30 p.m.
January 20	Saturday	Girls Basketball--Billings Skyview	CMR	1:30 p.m.
February 2	Friday	Boys Basketball--Billings Senior	CMR	4:45 p.m.
February 8	Thursday	Boys Basketball--Great Falls	CMR	6:30 p.m.
February 16	Friday	Boys Basketball--Billings Skyview	CMR	6:30 p.m.
February 17	Saturday	Boys Basketball--Bozeman	CMR	1:30 p.m.
February 23	Friday	Girls Basketball--Billings West	CMR	6:30 p.m.
February 24	Saturday	Girls Basketball--Billings Senior	CMR	1:30 p.m.
March 2-3	Fri.-Sat.	Divisional Boys & Girls Basketball (uncertain)	Butte	TBA
March 9-10	Fri.-Sat.	State Boys & Girls Basketball	Billings	TBA

Games in bold are required.

Additional performances may be added.

Goal

To gain an appreciation for instrumental music and become competent performers through studying/practicing:

- Good instrumental technique
- Note reading and sight reading
- Music theory and history
- Active listening
- Performing
 - Concerts/Festivals/Tours
 - Jazz Band
 - Marching/Pep Band
- Cooperation, collaboration, and team work!

Requirements

- A willingness to participate. If you are not here to be part of a team you should drop this course. Cooperation is essential! A positive and supportive attitude is necessary! Full participation in the band program (including Pep/Marching Band, solos/ensembles, etc.) is key to a good experience. Get involved and set personal goals!
- Be on time and meet deadlines!
- Practice!!! Consistent and routine practice is the only way to fully develop as a musician—daily is best! You must work to be in control of tone, technique, and expression on a personal level in order for the ensemble to maintain a high level of artistry and ability. Make a plan! *“Practice makes permanent! Perfect practice makes progress!”*
- Knowledge of music theory is important. We will discuss multiple concepts to help us become better at our craft. If you do not understand topics discussed in class, you may need to do some outside work. A great resource is www.musictheory.net.
- Attendance is crucial. Do your best to limit your time away from band and your instrument! It is your responsibility to make up work missed in class and catch up on anything we may have done in rehearsal. Too many absences will affect your grade.
- Watch your tardies, too! Our time together is brief and important. My band director instilled this in us— *“If you’re early, you’re on time. If you’re on time, you’re late. If you’re late, you’re left behind!”*
- Concerts, Festivals, Tour (Symphonic) are REQUIRED.
 - Advance notice of absence, if possible, is required! Excused absences will be make up with an alternate assignment of the director’s choice.
 - Every effort has been made to not conflict with other school activities. Please contact Mr. Kloker ASAP if a conflict arises. You will need to complete the waiver form and possibly make up the grade.
 - Family conflicts—if possible, try to plan family trips before/after performance.
 - Medical emergencies/illness—times the need arises to miss school/performance due to an emergency or illness. Please let Mr. Kloker know of the emergency/illness and we can deal with a make-up assignment when you return.
 - Work is **not** an excused absence. Every effort has been made to give you year-long schedule. Please share with your employer.
 - Unexcused absence will result in a 0% for that portion of your grade.
- Marching Band is required only for Homecoming and Crosstown. All other Pep Band games are optional. Please note that if Pep Band travels you must have enough points. We can only take 1 bus.
 - **Any student seeking a waiver of participation for marching band must fill out and return a waiver request form by Friday, September 8th.**
- As a student of CMR, you are subject to all school and activity rules. Please refer to the CMR Student and Activity Handbooks.

Performing Opportunities

- **Symphonic Band**—the highest ensemble in the CMR Band Program. This band is open to students in all grades through audition in the spring.

- **Rustler Band**—this band is primarily sophomore and junior students who did not make or audition for Symphonic Band.
- **Maverick Band**—this band is for incoming freshmen.
- **Percussion**—this class is for all percussion students.
- **Russtones**—this is the CMR jazz ensemble. Students in this ensemble must also be registered for another large group class. Students are selected for this ensemble each spring.
- **Marching/Pep Band**—open to all students in the CMR band. Homecoming and Crosstown are required of all students. All other Pep Band performances are optional, but encouraged. Remember—travel to playoffs and tournaments are on a point system.
- **Extra-curricular**—there are many opportunities outside of the regular school day to enhance your music education and experience. Opportunities include:
 - Private lessons. While not required, learning to play an instrument is very difficult and every musician will need to get some help. Each instrument requires a very different set of skills and the best way to master these is help from a private instructor. The Public Schools, Great Falls Symphony, and local music teachers have compiled a master list of private instructors is available through the directors. Many of these teachers are willing to work around the hectic schedule of high school students. Scholarships are available for students who are unable to afford these lessons and are listed later in the handbook.
 - Great Falls Youth Orchestra (auditions each fall and spring)
 - Patriot Marching Band (summer)
 - All-State Honor Band (auditions each spring)
 - All-Northwest Honor Band (auditions in even numbered fall)
 - National Honor Ensemble (auditions in February)
 - District solo/ensemble festival (April)
 - Solo/ensemble recitals
 - GF Municipal Band (summer)
 - UP Community Band
 - Music Camps
- **Private Lessons**—while not required, private lessons are a way for students to work one-on-one with a specialist. Each instrument requires a different set of skills and the best way to master them are working with a private teacher. Great Falls has a great number of private teachers. Ask Mr. Kloker for recommendations if you are interested.

Grading Policy

- **Performance (35%)**—Concerts/Festivals/Marching Band
 - The Marching Band performances are required of all students, unless you complete the waiver of participation. All other Pep Band performances *should* be optional. (Remember Pep Band travel will be on a point system)
- **Daily Participation (30%)**—Factors include attitude, cooperation, preparedness, and attendance.
 - Excessive absence and tardiness *will* affect your grade.
 - You will lose points if you do not have your instrument, music, pencil, etc.
 - Low effort=low grade
- **Written/Playing Tests (20%)**
 - Playing tests on repertoire (points will vary)
 - Written tests on music theory/concepts
 - Listening assignments
- **Projects (15%)** Each quarter, students must prepare benchmarks of good performance practice. Outline below is what will be expected of each student during the year.
 - **Quarter 1**—Chromatic Scales
 - 9th—2 Octave F Major (with chromatic fingerings)
 - 10th—2 Octave F Major (memorized)
 - 11th—Full range for your instrument
 - 12th—Full range for your instrument (memorized)
 - **Quarter 2**—Major Scales
 - 9th—Concert C, F, Bb, Eb, Ab, Db, Gb Major

- 10th—All Major scales
- 11th—All Major scales memorized
- 12th—All Major scales, played in under 60 seconds
- **Quarter 3**—District Festival music playing test, review minor scales
- **Quarter 4**—Minor scales
 - 9th—Natural minor scales in a, d, g, c, bb, eb
 - 10th—All natural minor scales
 - 11th—All harmonic minor scales
 - 12th—All melodic minor scales
- **Practice (0%)**—You do not have to practice as part of your grade in the CMR band, but you do have to practice. The ultimate goal of EVERY student should be to become the best individual musician they can, which compliments their abilities in the ensemble. Playing an instrument is just like being a fine athlete—you must train your body, mind, and heart. That takes individual time and effort!

Rules

Rules broken will be dealt with according to severity.

- Follow directions the first time they are given! This rule is simple and efficient.
- Standard rehearsal etiquette applies
 - Be ready to rehearse/perform at the appropriate time—10 minutes early is 5 minutes late! Be in your seat and ready to rehearse promptly.
 - The only acceptable tardy must be accompanied by a note from the teacher/office staff that made you late.
 - Minimal talking during rehearsal. Be open and attentive to verbal commands. Awareness to non-verbal commands (conducting) is crucial to becoming a good musician/ensemble.
 - Make appropriate marks on your music when directed. Progress halts every time we have to stop for the same problem.
 - Come to rehearsals prepared! Be able to hear how your part fits with those around you. EVERY PART IS IMPORTANT!
- We have wonderful facilities at CMR. Show them the proper respect and keep them clean at all times!
- Absolutely **NO** gum, candy, or pop during rehearsals/performances!
- A general rule of thumb regarding school/personal equipment—if you don't own it, or haven't paid a rental fee for it, **DO NOT TOUCH** it unless asked to by the director.
- Respect! To receive it, you must earn it!

Materials

- CMR will provide most music/folders/etc.
 - Folders are to be taken care of and kept in the appropriate place. If they are found lying on the floor, or other places, you may lose some of your daily points.
 - Care of music and folders is your responsibility! As the cost of music continues to grow, if music is not returned in acceptable condition you may incur charges. (Some music parts are as much as \$20 to replace.)
- You must have a pencil with you **at all times!** You will lose points for not having one in class. It should be on your stand and available. In your backpack/case does not count.
 - **NO PEN!** If pen is used, you will be responsible for purchasing another copy of that music.
- Students are responsible for reeds, valve oil, slide cream, mutes, sticks, lyres, and cleaning supplies. Some of these items may be purchased from the band.

Uniforms

Appearance is an important part of performance. While we encourage all students to be individuals, there is a need for uniformity in performance. Each ensemble will wear the uniform listed below. Please no large earrings/jewelry, or facial/mouth piercings during performance.

- **Symphonic Band**—a replacement fee of \$10 will be assessed for uniforms

- Girls—Dresses will be provided. You must supply your own black flat soled shoes, and preferably black stockings. Modest jewelry.
- Boys—Tuxedos will be provided. You must supply your own black socks and black dress shoes.
- A sweatshirt or T-shirt will be selected by Band Council at a cost not to exceed \$25. This will be worn as the bands informal attire for AA Band Festival and for tour.
- **Rustler & Maverick Bands**
 - All members will purchase a shirt which will function as the concert uniform. Students must also supply black slacks, black socks, and black shoes. Every effort will be given to keep the shirt cost to a minimum.
- **Marching Band**
 - Uniforms will be distributed to all members prior to the first performance. Each member is responsible for supplying his/her own white socks and shoes. Athletic shoes are fine if they are white and not high tops. Stripes will need to be covered. A fee of \$128 will be charged for lost or damaged uniforms.
- **Pep Band—TBA**

Traveling

Traveling for band events is a **PRIVILEGE**. Poor behavior will not be tolerated. Students traveling must agree to the following terms—

- Appropriate behavior at all times. All situations cannot be addressed and the director has discretion of such matters. Students will be financially responsible for meals/rooms if damage or mess occurs.
- Chaperones/directors will have the authority to assign motel rooms, bus seats, etc., if needed. Searches of students' possessions may be conducted if there is cause to believe the student has illegal/prohibited substances.
- Students will be expected to travel on school provided transportation. In extreme situations students may travel with parents/guardians or another designated adult. Please contact the Band Room a minimum of two days before an event if an alternate travel arrangement is needed.
- Students **MUST** stay at the performance site at all times, unless with a parent/guardian. Vocal and written consent must be given to the director before leaving.
- Violation of curfew or other activity rules will result in phone call to administration and parents. In some cases, parents may be held responsible to transport the student home. Students may also be held financially responsible for all travel expenses, and depending on the severity of infraction, denied further extra-curricular privileges.
- Students are responsible for the well-being of their assigned room. They will be held financially responsible for any damage that may occur or from complaints made by the result of their actions.
- Student cell phones and computers may be confiscated if used inappropriately. All school technology policies apply to school travel.
- All conditions outlined in the school handbook and activities' policy shall be followed.
- Parent/Student Handbook Acknowledgement must be signed and returned by designated date to participate. In addition, you will have to fill out travel/medical release forms prior to leaving CMR.

Lettering

- It is possible to earn points in extra and co-curricular activities to get a Band Letter. The lettering requirements are as follows:
 - Band Letter/Pin—600 points
 - Band Bar (2nd year letter)—800 points
 - Second Bar (3rd year letter)—1000 points
- Points can be earned in the following categories
 - 4th of July Parade Participant—50 points
 - Pep Band Season—100 points (two excused games allowed)
 - All-State Band/Orchestra Member—150 points
 - All-Northwest Band/Orchestra Member (odd years)—200 points
 - Youth Orchestra Member—100 points
 - District Music Festival Solo—100 points
 - District Music Festival Ensemble—50 points
- The Director may award points to individuals in special circumstances

- Students music complete an application to letter in the spring. Applications will be due April 1, 2018. Each student is responsible to keep track of points.

Fundraising

Fundraising is an essential part of providing a quality experience for the band students at CMR. The money raised allows the band to make trips, and is used to supplement money provided by the district to update equipment and supplies. The band has two major fundraising activities each year—

- **Fruit Sale**—The annual fruit sale provides over 60% of the band’s operating money and is the only student generated fundraiser. The sale will begin on Tuesday, October 31 and ends on Monday, November 27. The fruit delivery will be Thursday, December 7. Specific details will be provided later.
- **Concession Stand**—Each year about 40% of the funds used for band activities are raised through concession stand sales at home football games. This is one of the best opportunities for parents to help the band program.

Scholarships & Awards

- **Private Lesson Scholarships**
 - **Band Scholarship**—The band offers \$150 scholarships to help defray the cost of private lessons. One scholarship per year per student. (May also be used to attend a summer music camp. Applications available after the spring concert.)
 - **The Michael Patrick “Cosmo” Conner Foundation**—offers 3 scholarships worth \$300 apiece for private lessons. (May also be used to attend a summer music camp. Applications available after the spring concert.)
 - **Tolmei Foundation**—offers several scholarships awarded each fall. The number and amount change yearly.
- **General Scholarships/Awards**
 - **Bill & Helen Cane Scholarship**—Three \$100 scholarships from the Bill & Helen Cain Foundation awarded each spring to the undergraduate flute, clarinet, and saxophone player who show the most improvement and initiative during the year.
 - **Senior Merit Award**--\$100 to the senior student who has helped the band most during the school year.
 - **Louis Armstrong Award**—Given to the outstanding senior in the Russtones Jazz Ensemble each spring. It comes with a trophy, plaque, and \$100.
 - **John Philip Sousa Award**—Given to the outstanding senior member of the Symphonic Band. The award is voted on by the students in band.
 - **Dwight Welter Memorial Scholarship**—Available to students who wish to continue the study of music in college. The amount varies with the success of the stock market and student may apply in the spring.

Communication

For the CMR Bands to be successful, communication is key! If you have questions or concerns, please contact Mr. Kloker.

- Band Office—268-6121 (may not answer during class, but will return voice mail)
- Email—christopher_kloker at gfps.k12.mt.us
- Remind app—text the following to 81010
 - @cmrbands (all bands—general info, announcements, etc.)
 - @cmrbandpar (I will gear announcements more toward parents. Will include concert/festival/tour info, etc.)
 - @cmrjazz (Russtones)