

Charles M. Russell High School
Band Handbook
2020-2021
www.cmrbands.net

Welcome to the band program at Charles M. Russell High School! Since 1965, the CMR Bands have 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.

“Music acts like a magic key, to which the most tightly closed hearts open.” —Maria Augusta von Trapp

*“Once we believe in ourselves, we can risk curiosity, wonder, spontaneous delight, or any experience that reveals the human spirit.”
—EE Cummings*

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!
- 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, including changes made 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!”*
- 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!

Consistent and routine practice is the best way to develop fully. 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.
- Some requirements are outside of the traditional school day. Advanced notice of required events will be given as soon as possible. (Super Saturday)
- 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 avoid 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 (Pep) Band is required only for Homecoming and Crosstown. All other Pep Band games should be optional. Please note that if Pep Band travels you must have enough points. We can only take 1 bus.
- 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 premier 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 be registered for another band class. Students audition 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:
 - Pep Band/Marching Band
 - Great Falls Youth Orchestra (auditions each fall and spring)
 - Patriot Marching Band (summer)
 - All-State Honor Band/Orchestra (auditions each spring)
 - All-Northwest Honor Band/Orchestra (auditions in even numbered fall)

- National Honor Ensemble (auditions in February)
- District solo/ensemble festival (April)
- Solo/ensemble recitals
- GF Municipal Band (summer)/GF Community Band (fall/spring)
- Music Camps
- **Private Lessons**—while not required, private lessons are a way for students to work one-on-one with an instrument 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 wonderful 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
 - Cellphones/electronic devices have become a HUGE distraction. You are allowed to use your phone to tune/etc., for the first 5 minutes of class. After that, they are to be under your chair, turned upside down. Misuse of device will result in the following—
 - 1. Warning and loss of daily points.
 - 2. Loss of a week’s points and a phone call home.
 - 3. Meeting with parents and administration, possible removal from ensemble.
- **Written/Playing Tests (20%)**
 - Playing tests
 - Random repertoire check
 - Quarter 1—Chromatic Scales
 - Grade 9—2 octave F Major (with chromatic fingerings)
 - Grade 10—2 octave F Major (memorized)
 - Grade 11—Full range
 - Grade 12—Full range (memorized)
 - Quarter 2—Major Scales
 - Grade 9/10—All Major scales
 - Grade 11/12—All Major scales memorized
 - Quarter 3—Festival repertoire check
 - Quarter 4—minor scales
 - Grade 9/10—All natural and harmonic minor scales
 - Grade 11/12—All minor scales
 - Written tests on music theory/concepts
- **Enrichment (15%)**—In order to become better musicians, students must engage in activities that complement the regular classroom lessons. At the end of each quarter, students will turn in enrichment forms. Students must complete 15 points from the following categories—
 - Pep Band—a minimum of 50% participation (4 points per quarter), 100% participation (8 points per quarter) *Required performances do not count toward total*

- Practice—a minimum of 1.5 hours each week during the quarter. An adult who can verify practice must sign the form. (4 points per quarter)
 - 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!
- Private Lessons—students must have their private teacher sign form. (5 points per quarter)
- Patriot Marching Band
- Crosstown Clash (Rehearsals & Performance)
- Youth Orchestra (5 points per quarter)
- All-State Audition (5 points, 1st quarter only)
- All-State Participation (10 points, 1st quarter only)
- All-Northwest Audition (5 points, 1st quarter only)
- All-Northwest Participation (10 points, 3rd quarter only)
- District Music Festival Solo (10 points, 4th quarter only)
- District Music Festival Ensemble (5 points, 4th quarter only)
- GFPS Concerts—any Middle/High School Band/Choir/Orchestra concerts that students are not required to attend. Student must submit program with form (4 points per concert)
- Pop/Rock/Country concerts (3 points)
- Other options as discussed with Band Director (variable)

Rules

- 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!
- WATER only! No energy drinks, soda, etc.
- Absolutely **NO** gum, candy, food during rehearsals/performances!
- A general rule of thumb regarding school/personal equipment—if you do not own it, or have not paid a rental fee for it, **DO NOT TOUCH** it unless asked to by the director.
- Electronic devices are a tremendous tool to aide in learning, but can also be a distraction. Students will be allowed to use their phones/tablets to tune, etc., during the first FIVE minutes of class. After that time, if a student is found using an electronic device in class they may lose daily participation points. (See grading)

- Respect! To receive it, you must give it and earn it!

Materials

- CMR will provide most music/folders/etc.
 - Music/folders are to the responsibility of each student. Music/folders found lying on the floor will result in a loss of participation points. Damaged or lost music/folders will incur replacement charges. (Some music parts are as much as \$20 to replace.)
- You must have a pencil with you **at all times!** You will lose participation points for not having one in class. It should be on your stand and available. In your backpack/case does not count.
 - **NO INK!** If ink is used, you will be responsible for purchasing another copy of that music. We may be able to make a rehearsal copy, if necessary.
- Students are responsible for reeds, valve oil, slide cream, mutes, sticks, lyres, and cleaning supplies.
 - Recommended Reeds—
 - Clarinet—Mitchell Lurie or Vandoren
 - Saxophone—Hemke, LaVoz, or Vandoren

Uniforms

Appearance is an important part of performance. While GFPS and CMR 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 rental/cleaning fee of \$10 will be assessed for uniforms
 - Girls—Dresses will be provided. You must supply your own black flat-soled shoes, and black stockings. Modest jewelry only. (\$80 replacement fee if lost or damaged)
 - Boys—Tuxedo jacket/pant/tie will be provided. Students will buy tuxedo shirts, and supply your own black socks and black dress shoes. (\$110 replacement fee if lost or damaged)
 - A sweatshirt or T-shirt may be selected 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 of these bands will purchase a black concert shirt. Students must also supply black slacks/skirt, black socks, and black shoes.
 - CMR Bands will supply a concert tie. (\$17 replacement fee if lost or damaged)
- **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. (\$55 (jacket) & \$10 (cap) replacement fee if lost or damaged)
- **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. Not all situations can be addressed before travel, and the director has discretion of such matters. Students may 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 and any travel expenses. Depending on the severity of the infraction, a student may be 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 as a result of their actions.
- Student cell phones and computers will 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
 - Patriot Marching Band—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 complete an application to letter in the spring. Applications will be due April 24, 2020. 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 budget, and is the only student generated fundraiser. The sale will begin on Tuesday, October 29 and ends on Monday, December 2. The fruit delivery will be Thursday, December 12. More 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. There is a strong expectation for Symphonic and Jazz parents to attend a minimum of one football game, as those students benefit most from the profits.

Scholarships & Awards

- **Private Lesson Scholarships**—visit with Mr. Kloker if interested.
- **General Scholarships/Awards**
 - **The Michael Patrick “Cosmo” Conner Foundation**—offers 3 scholarships worth \$300 apiece for private lessons.
 - **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 (I may not answer during class, but I will return voice mail ASAP)
- 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.)
- Planbook— www.bit.ly/klokercmr
- Student email—please logon and set-up your school email ASAP.
- Google Classroom—students need to join their respective Google Classroom
 - Symphonic Band—glfglwly
 - Rustler Band—7ns6xhz
 - Maverick Band—n5tgfic
 - Percussion Ensemble—osn5v42
 - Russtones Jazz—b5tbq2f