

# **SAMUEL CLEMENS BAND**

## **STUDENT/PARENT HANDBOOK**

CONGRATULATIONS on your decision to be a part of the fine tradition of the  
SAMUEL CLEMENS HIGH SCHOOL MIGHTY BUFFALO BAND!

This document is designed as an addendum of the SCUCISD High School Band Handbook for parents and students. It includes specific details concerning all aspects of the Clemens Band program, including the Color Guard (Flags). The Color Guard will also have its own specific Clemens Constitution and Rules in addition to the Band. Every effort has been made to make this handbook as complete as possible, however the Band Director and/or school administration have the right to make revisions during the school year. All information in this handbook is in addition to the district-wide high school Band Handbook and is superseded by SCUCISD school board, district administration, and campus administration policy.

*Please complete the last two pages of the SCUCISD High School Band Handbook with signatures and return to the Band office no later than August 21, 2019.*

For any further information, please feel free to contact the Clemens Band Staff at the phone numbers listed below, or by email. If a Director is unavailable by telephone, leave a message and the appropriate Director will return your call as soon as possible.

Be sure to bookmark and frequently check Mr. Petrisky's Band Website for current information and updates:

<http://www.scuc.txed.net/webpages/rpetrisky/>

Mr. Robert Petrisky-----Director of Bands--- [rpetrisky@scuc.txed.net](mailto:rpetrisky@scuc.txed.net)  
Office phone: 210-945-6555

Mr. Zacarias Serrato ----Assistant Director of Bands---[zserrato@scuc.txed.net](mailto:zserrato@scuc.txed.net)  
Office phone: 210-945-6556  
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Mr. Rob Wheeler-----Assistant Director of Bands/Percussion Specialist—  
[rwheeler@scuc.txed.net](mailto:rwheeler@scuc.txed.net) Office phone: 210-945-6557  
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Mr. Corey Barker -----Assistant Director of Bands (Head Director, Corbett Jr. High)--  
[cbarker@scuc.txed.net](mailto:cbarker@scuc.txed.net) Office phone: 210-619-4165  
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Ms. Lauren York ---Assistant Director of Bands (Assistant Director, Corbett Jr. High)--  
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Ms. Courtney Edwards-----Assistant Director of Band (Director, Wilder Intermediate School)--  
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Ms. Chirstina Caro----Color Guard [Flags] Sponsor--- [cmcaro@scuc.txed.net](mailto:cmcaro@scuc.txed.net)  
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## MISSION STATEMENT

The Samuel Clemens High School Band will encourage and educate students to become the best individuals possible, while developing a deep appreciation and life-long passion for music. In addition, the program will continue to represent and reflect the positive values of our community through the involvement of musically literate and performance proficient students.

## MARCHING BAND, DRUM LINE, COLOR GUARD, TWIRLING, JAZZ ENSEMBLE AND APPLIED MUSIC COURSES

Please refer to the SCUCISD High School Band Handbook for information concerning these activities.

## CONCERT BANDS

There are four performing Concert Bands at Clemens High School: Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band Concert Band, and Cadet Band. Band students are placed according to their skill level, attitude, eligibility, participation and instrumentation needs of each ensemble. Students may be moved to another Band class at the discretion of the Band Director. Changes are usually made at the end of the semester. The three Concert Bands provide for a wide range of playing abilities and time commitment.

*All Clemens Band Students are highly encouraged to take private lessons throughout the year.*

The WIND ENSEMBLE, directed by Mr. Robert Petrisky, is the most advanced Band at Clemens High School, performing college level literature at numerous concerts and competitions throughout the school year. Wind Ensemble students are required to attend sectionals outside of school hours each week. Moreover, they are expected to audition through the TMEA All-State Band process as well as perform a solo at the Class I level for the UIL Solo/Ensemble contest in February. The Wind Ensemble consists of students who are quite serious about improving their musical abilities as they perform at all major Band Department concerts at SCHS. This Band has a fine tradition of numerous UIL Sweepstakes awards.

The SYMPHONIC BAND, directed by Mr. Zack Serrato, is the second level Concert Band at Clemens High School. This Band performs higher-level high school Concert Band literature. Symphonic Band students are required to attend sectionals outside of school hours. Members of the Symphonic Band are highly encouraged to audition for the All-Region Band. They are required to participate in UIL Solo/Ensemble contest in February. The Symphonic Band participates and has been very successful in UIL Concert & Sight Reading competition each year. This group performs on all major Band Department concerts at SCHS and serves for many students as a preparation for the Wind Ensemble.

The CONCERT BAND, directed by Mr. Rob Wheeler, is the third level Band at Clemens High School. Occasionally students are placed in the Concert Band due to their schedules not allowing them to be assigned to Wind Ensemble or Symphonic Band. A considerable amount of time is spent individually on technical exercises in order to improve the musical abilities of these students. There are seldom out-of-school sectionals required of students in this Band, however, sectionals when scheduled outside of class are mandatory. Students are encouraged to audition for All-Region Band and UIL Solo/Ensemble contest in February. The Concert Band performs at all concerts as scheduled by the Director.

The CADET BAND, directed by Mr. Robert Petrisky, is the fourth Band at Clemens High School. Occasionally students are placed in the Cadet Band due to their schedules not allowing them to be assigned to one of the other concert bands. Members of the Cadet Band may split into two separate groups for rehearsal purposes. A considerable amount of time is spent individually on technical exercises in order to improve the musical abilities of these students. There are seldom out-of-school sectionals required of students in this Band, however, sectionals when scheduled outside of class are mandatory. Students are encouraged to audition for All-Region Band and UIL Solo/Ensemble contest in February. The Concert Band performs at all concerts as scheduled by the Director.

### GRADING POLICY

The Clemens Band staff utilizes the SCUC ISD policy on grading. Please view the District's Grading Guidelines in the most current Student Handbook for details.

Grading in Band is based upon participation, attitude, and performance (both by tests through assessment of playing skills and by public performances). Grades for Band students are usually higher than the norm. This is understandable with the exceptional quality of students we have in the Band.

Band students receive a major grade of "100" for participation and performance -- example: football games, concerts, competitions, etc. The remainder of the grade is derived from prepared and active participation in rehearsals, sectionals, and playing tests *in their entirety*. Grades are affected by absences and tardiness to any event, including rehearsals, "run-throughs", and performances.

### ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

Refer to the SCUCISD Band Handbook for specific information concerning eligibility.

*It is imperative that students and parents frequently communicate with all teachers concerning grades.* Current grade averages are easily reviewed by checking the on-line Grade Book.

### PARTICIPATION EXPECTATIONS

A yearly Band Calendar is distributed for your use in planning your family schedule for the 2018-2019 school year. Updates and revisions are made as changes occur. *It is important to frequently check the Clemens Band Website for the most current updates and revisions to the Band Calendar.* The website can be accessed at:

<https://www.scuc.txed.net/Page/19830>

EACH Band student is important to the success of our many activities. We have to be able to count on 100% attendance at all rehearsals and performances. If a family emergency occurs unexpectedly, please notify the Band Director by e-mail. Occasionally, there are family commitments (weddings, graduations, etc.) that we will try to be flexible and work with you on an individual basis. This must be discussed in detail well-in-advance (a month or more). *It is also important to carefully select dates for SAT, PSAT, and ACT testing that do not occur during scheduled Band events.*

### REHEARSAL EXPECTATIONS & BEHAVIOR

In Band rehearsals we not only are involved with a creative process, but also with many more students than other classroom teachers. Because of this, it is imperative that Band students be organized and prepared for every

rehearsal. When an individual is not able to play his/her instrument during a rehearsal, it hurts the entire GROUP, as well as the individual. It is important that the student's instrument is in good working condition, has a pencil to mark music, and has important accessories such as mutes, reeds and/or valve oil for EVERY rehearsal. It is also conducive to the creative process that we maintain a quiet, attentive atmosphere in the classroom and on the practice field. Students who do not live up to the high rehearsal expectations of the Clemens Band will be counseled, and if necessary, removed from the performing ensemble.

## **BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS CONCERNING ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION**

Maintaining a high standard of conduct will also include ensuring that the Clemens Band students' personal electronic communication is appropriate. The internet is a worldwide publicly accessible form of communication. Any communication including, but not limited to, MySpace, Twitter, Facebook, blogs, photosharing, inappropriate texting that is published or appearing on the internet is public domain even if it is marked private. Band students will be held responsible for their texts and other electronic communication on the internet through their personal websites as well as posting on other students' websites. The areas of appropriateness will include, but are not limited to, language (abbreviated or alluding to negative, lewd, vulgar, or obscene comments about any individuals and/or any organizations), pictures, suggestive poses or clothing, and reference to alcohol, drugs, tobacco, or acts of violence. Published communication on the internet or by electronic means by Band students which cause disruption or damage to any school property or equipment are also considered unacceptable behavior.

Any member of the Clemens Band program who is involved in posting comments, pictures or statuses on any social networks such as, but not limited to, blogs, Twitter, Snapchat, Instagram, or Facebook which are inappropriate, disruptive, negative, lewd or obscene may result in suspension or dismissal from the program, as well as being subject to the school's disciplinary process.

## **BAND SHIRT/UNIFORM ACCESSORIES**

All new Band students are required to buy a Clemens Show Shirt before the school year begins.

The Clemens Band uniform and all the major accessories are provided by SCUCISD. Each student will need to provide: (1) A pair of official black Band shoes – a second pair might be necessary since we use them to march in many daily rehearsals as well as in performances. (2) A pair of black gloves (purchased at the beginning of the school year through the Band Boosters). (3) A pair of prescribed band shorts to be worn under the uniform with their Band or Show Shirt that will be purchased through the Band Boosters. Acquiring shorts from the Boosters will ensure uniformity. Special note: Jeans (pants or shorts other than the prescribed band shorts to be purchased from the Band Boosters) or any other bulky types of attire, are not acceptable. (4) A pair of long [over the ankle] black socks, not short athletic or "sport" socks. (5) The current year prescribed water jug with the student's name clearly marked on it. Due to hygiene reasons, water jugs from previous years are not acceptable. There may be other uniform or accessory requirements that would be established by the Band Director.

## **BAND LOCKER CHECK-OUT**

Each student will be issued a locker and lock prior to the beginning of the school year. They must use one of the school supplied locks, so Directors or school administration can open the lock if necessary. Any personal locks will be removed ("cut" off the locker). All students must keep their instrument and personal belongings in their locked lockers. Storage of money and/or valuables in lockers *at any time* is highly discouraged. Every effort is made to maintain a secure facility, however the Directors and the school district are not responsible for items that are missing or stolen from the Band Hall or lockers. Students will be financially responsible for lost or stolen locks or damage to their lockers. *There will be a \$20.00 replacement charge for missing locks.* Lockers are never considered personal property and are always subject to inspection by the Directors and/or school Administration. *Unless a locker is specifically assigned to more than one student by the Band Director, the sharing of lockers is not allowed.*

## **BAND/SCHOOL FOOTBALL GAME POLICY**

Normal school policy dictates that Band students ride to, and return from, Band performances as a group on school or chartered buses (on long distance contests or games). On occasion, parents desire to pick up their Band child at the conclusion of football games, rather than have them return to the Band Hall on the bus. The procedure that **MUST** be used is as follows:

Immediately **AFTER** the football game is over and the Band has finished playing the school and fight songs, parents should meet their child at their designated bus and let the parent sponsor of that bus know that he/she is riding home with you. *The student is responsible for arranging for their instrument and uniform to be properly taken off the bus and/or truck and stored in the Band Hall in the appropriate place by a reliable student.* The parent may also be required to sign your child's bus card indicating that you picked up your child from the game as well as show proper identification. *Parents must make sure that there is documentation in writing that their child is being released to them and is seen by the bus chaperone before leaving.*

## **PARKING FOR AWAY GAMES**

Due to the stadium being in use virtually every Friday night during football season, all students and parents involved in our out of town games must park their vehicles in a parking area designated by the district and/or school administration. This will allow parking for the game that is being held at the stadium while we are at our away game.

## **BUS ATTENDANCE PROCEDURE:**

Refer to the SCUCISD Band Handbook Transportation section for specific information.

*All students will be dismissed from the Band Hall to board the buses in order of seniority: Seniors, Juniors, Sophomores, Freshmen.*

## **BAND OFFICERS**

Please refer to the SCUCISD High School Band Handbook for more information.

Officers plan Band parties, dress up the auditorium for the Holiday Concert and assist the Boosters decorate for the annual Band Banquet and Dance in the spring. These officers also provide leadership in spirit activities and work to develop friendly relationships between the Clemens Band and Bands from other schools. All Drum Major and Student Leader candidates must be signed up for both semesters of Band the year in which they serve in the position they are selected.

Any student who holds an Officer, Leader or Drum Major position and does not demonstrate the responsibilities that are expected of their post as determined by the Band Director or school administration may be relieved of their position by the Band Director or school administration. In the case of removal, a replacement may be appointed by the Band Director with the approval of the school administration.

## **BAND TRIPS**

Every student has the opportunity to participate when the entire Band program attends a major trip generally every four years, usually performing in concerts and/or competitions. *There may be other qualifying requirements set by the Directors, campus administration or district administration such as past discipline record, payment of Band fees, etc.*

## **BAND BOOSTERS**

The Clemens Band has a very active, supportive Band Booster Organization. Without the hard work and dedication of our parents, the Band program at Clemens would not be as successful and productive as it is. There are numerous areas in which parents are involved in supporting the activities of the Band. Most of the work of the Booster Organization is done through numerous committees.

With a few exceptions, general meetings of the Band Boosters are held either quarterly or monthly the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the Clemens Band Hall. The Booster Officers meet in Executive Session either before a general meeting or at another location and day that is announced prior to the meeting. The Booster By-Laws are available and posted on the Clemens Band website. Everyone is encouraged to consult the Band Calendar to confirm each scheduled meeting. Unavoidable changes in the general meeting schedule and any “emergency” called meetings will be announced by e-mail and posted on the Band website. The Band Booster officers for 2019-2020 contact information is:

Clemens Band Boosters  
P.O. Box 807  
Schertz, Texas 78154

E-mail: [execboard@clemensbandboosters.com](mailto:execboard@clemensbandboosters.com)

