

# Cambridge High School

## Band Handbook

### 2020-2021

**Mrs. Ashley Agans**  
**Principal**

**Mr. Ryan Borger**  
**Band Director**

Welcome to the Cambridge Band Program!! Many exciting opportunities will be a part of this year's Cambridge Bands – and we are excited that you will play an integral part in continuing the traditions and spirit throughout the school in the Cambridge Band Program!! In such a supportive community for the arts, and with extraordinary programs at Hopewell and Northwestern, we have built a strong foundation for the future of the Cambridge Bands. You are now a part of that tradition and have the incredible opportunity to push the level of excellence and the expectations even further.

The marching band will begin rehearsing in July and perform at all home and away football games, as well as compete at 3-4 competitive events – AND ALL MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING RECEIVE PE CREDIT FOR MARCHING BAND! Other co-curricular offerings will include a jazz program and winter guard. These ensembles will be defined in the following pages. The curricular ensembles are the heart of the band program and where the vast majority of musical growth occurs. Students must be in a curricular band class for participation in most co-curricular ensembles. The curricular ensembles will include Wind Symphony, Symphonic Band, Concert Band and Percussion Ensemble. As the band program grows, additional curricular ensembles may be added to the course list.

In addition to the ensemble successes, the individual members of the Cambridge Band will have opportunities to audition for County, District, and All-State Honor Bands – as well as several local honor ensembles including Atlanta Symphony Youth Orchestra, Atlanta Youth Wind Symphony, Rialto Youth Jazz Orchestra, and many others.

Hard-working students, dedicated staff members, involved and active parents, and a supportive administration and community all combine to make it possible for the Cambridge High School Band program to create diverse and successful musical opportunities for all students. The students at Cambridge will work in a focused environment, build a united community of learners and performers, and take pride in the accomplishments of building the band program at Cambridge.

The remainder of the band handbook will serve as a guide to the course offerings and additional opportunities in the Cambridge Band Program, as well as an introduction to the Cambridge Band Booster Club, Inc. More defined procedural documents will be made available in the form of syllabus and ensemble guides for each aspect of the Cambridge Bands. If you have any questions please visit our website or email us using the information below.

**SUCCESS IS A JOURNEY ... NOT A DESTINATION**

**WHAT WOULD YOU ATTEMPT TO DO IF YOU KNEW YOU COULD NOT FAIL?**

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# PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

## 1) Curricular Ensembles

### a) Cambridge Wind Symphony

The Wind Symphony is the highest auditioned ensemble at Cambridge High School. Auditions are conducted the previous spring and are open to all 9-12 band students with experience on their instrument and in good standing with their current band program. Students are expected to maintain a high standard of excellence in preparation, daily rehearsals, and performance. The performance schedule will include 3-4 concerts each semester and may involve before/after school rehearsals. Attendance is always required and is part of the students' grade.

### b) Cambridge Symphonic Band

The Symphonic Band is the second auditioned ensemble at Cambridge High School. Auditions are conducted the previous spring and are open to all 9-12 band students with experience on their instrument and in good standing with their current band program. Students are expected to maintain a high standard of excellence in preparation, daily rehearsals, and performance. The performance schedule will include 2-3 concerts each semester and may involve before/after school rehearsals. Attendance is always required and is part of the students' grade.

### c) Cambridge Concert Band

The Concert Band is the third ensemble at Cambridge High School. There is no audition required for this group, and membership is open to all 9-12 band students with experience on their instrument and in good standing with the current band program. Students are expected to maintain a high standard of excellence in preparation, daily rehearsals, and performance. The performance schedule will include 2-3 concerts each semester which will be graded, and may include before/after school rehearsals. Attendance is always required and is part of the students' grade.

### d) Percussion Ensemble

The Percussion Ensemble is offered to enhance a student's current musical ability with rigorous fundamentals and small chamber performance opportunities, as well as performing with the corresponding curricular ensemble. Placement is based on spring auditions open to all 9-12 band students with experience on their instrument and in good standing with their current band program. Students are expected to maintain a high standard of excellence in preparation, daily rehearsals, and performance. The performance schedule will include 3-4 concerts each semester and will involve before/after school rehearsals. Attendance is always required and is part of the students' grade.

## 2) Marching Band

To be a member of the Cambridge High School Marching Band, each member must be enrolled in the proper band class during the school day. Each member must comply with all rules and regulations of his particular band class. The students agree to attend summer rehearsals and are required to attend band camp. Exceptions must be cleared through a director well in advance. Each member must meet all financial obligations and must attend all rehearsals and performances of the group. Fundraisers may be available to help meet the financial obligations. The visual nature of the marching band experience and demanding practice and performance schedule make it one of the most rewarding experiences in high school. For this demanding ensemble to work, commitment to preparation and attendance is a priority.

For further details, policies, and procedures regarding the Marching Band, please see the "Marching Band Handbook Addendum."

## 3) Co-curricular Chamber Ensembles

### a) Jazz Combo and Jazz Ensembles

The jazz program at Cambridge will offer a jazz combo that will begin rehearsing early and perform for the school and community throughout the school year. Jazz Ensemble auditions are conducted in October and will be open to standard jazz big-band instrumentation. Students must be a member of the curricular band program to audition (exceptions for piano, bass, and guitar). The Jazz Ensemble will perform 4-6 times during the school year and compete in local and regional jazz festivals. See the Jazz Ensemble Expectations and Guidelines for more information.

### b) Additional Possible Chamber Ensembles

#### **4) Winter Guard**

Cambridge Bands will offer a Winter Guard in the winter and spring seasons. The winter guard will compete locally (and possibly nationally) at guard competitions to arranged music in a gymnasium. The guard at Cambridge will rehearse after school 2-3 times a week and include several weekend commitments for additional rehearsals and performances. All students that participate in fall color guard are encouraged to participate in winter guard to continue developing their fantastic abilities. For more information see the Winter Guard Expectations and Guidelines.

### **CAMBRIDGE BAND BOOSTER CLUB, INC.**

The Cambridge Band Booster Club, Inc. is the official non-profit designation for the band parent organization at Cambridge High School. EVERY parent with a student involved in the band program (including color guard, and co-curriculars) is a member of the booster club. The CBBC will hold meetings throughout the school year in the band room at Cambridge High School (see Calendar for full meeting schedule). Important information about fundraising, volunteer needs, budgets, program updates, and any other additional support will be discussed at these meetings. The CBBC will operate under the leadership of an executive board, which will hold additional meetings to prepare all activities of the organization and run the monthly meetings. Our executive board roster can be found on our website and are readily available via email for questions from the parent community.

The booster organization is utilizing the CHARMS management system for our band program. This is essential to our student and parent communication!! Please keep your information current and consult CHARMS at [www.charmsoffice.com](http://www.charmsoffice.com) using the school code = CambridgeHSBand. The student ID to login is the school ID number (student's lunch number).

It takes our entire band family to run a successful and diverse band program – none of our students' accomplishments are possible without parent/volunteer support – THANK YOU!!

### **PERFORMANCE ENHANCEMENT FEE (PEF)**

The band director and executive board work to create a budget each year that is an estimation of the necessary operating expenses needed for the following school year. The director, along with the CBBC officers, work to outline and estimate the profits from scheduled fundraisers and expenses to create the opportunities of the Cambridge Bands. All band families contribute to the success of the entire band program by paying a PERFORMANCE ENHANCEMENT FEE to the CBBC. Please attend our monthly meetings to learn more about the PEF and how it supplements your students' band experience.

### **GENERAL EXPECTATIONS**

#### **1) WE ARE FOCUSED**

- Come to rehearsal with a purpose and desire to learn
- Be prepared with equipment and learning materials
- Give instructors and fellow performers 100% of your attention

#### **2) WE ARE UNITED**

- Respect your instructors and fellow performers
- Be helpful and encouraging instead of critical
- Take care of your fellow performers, their equipment, and the facilities

#### **3) WE ARE CAMBRIDGE**

- Represent yourself, your band, and your school with class
- Take pride in your accomplishments, and the accomplishments of others
- Focus = Competence . . . Unity = Connection . . . together we create CAMBRIDGE

## ***COMPETENCE IS NEVER COMPLETE WITHOUT CONNECTION***

*Follow the band on Facebook . . . great way to stay CONNECTED*

### **DAILY GENERAL PROCEDURES**

- 1) Students will enter and exit the band room through the band double-doors.
  - a) Exception – Marching Band winds and guard should exit through the single door
- 2) All students will have a storage locker or area to store their instrument
  - a) Lockers are to be kept locked and clean of waste items – leadership will monitor
  - b) Storage areas are for band items only – it is not an additional locker for school
- 3) Band room set-up is the responsibility of all members of the band
  - a) Chairs must be carried or on a rack – never dragged across the carpet
  - b) If a music stand is not functioning, alert the leadership so it can be fixed
- 4) ABSOLUTELY NO FOOD IS ALLOWED IN THE BAND ROOM – only water to drink
- 5) Schedules for the week will always be on the board (or projector)
- 6) Daily focus questions will always be on the board (or projector)
- 7) The band room or any rehearsal space should always look better than when you found it
- 8) Band equipment is expensive – you are responsible for your equipment
- 9) If something isn't working or seems incorrect, alert the directors promptly so it may be fixed 10) The band room will typically be open for 20 minutes before and after school

### **ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES**

Band practices and performances are mandatory. Any request for an exception must be submitted in writing and approved by the directors two weeks in advance of the conflicting date. **Marching Band attendance issues should be addressed using the Google Form sent out at the beginning of the season.** Emergencies will be handled by the director on an individual basis.

#### **Excusable Absences:**

- Sick and not in school
- Death in the family
- Religious holiday
- School activity conflict excused by the director WELL in advance **Unexcused Absences:**
- Dentist/Orthodontist appointment
- Driving test
- Homework (time management is important!)
- Attending a rock concert or sporting event
- Birthday
- Work
- Trips (vacations) without proper advance notice (at least two weeks)
- No transportation (section leaders can assist you with rides if you need one)

## TRAVEL POLICY

- All regular school rules regarding behavior will be enforced throughout all trips.
- No student will leave the band and go off on their own at any time. Students must remain with the group in designated areas at all times.
- There will be no males in female housing areas and no females in male housing areas at any time.
- There will be no smoking or possession of smoking items at any time during a band function. This means any time the band is together as a group.
- There will be no alcoholic beverages or drugs of any kind at any band function. If for any reason a student is taking prescription medication, notification must be given in advance and in most cases the prescriptions will be handled and dispensed by the band nurse. All prescription and nonprescription medication should be in original containers and clearly marked. Any violation of this rule will result in notification of local law enforcement officials. The parents will be contacted to make arrangements for the student's immediate transportation home at their own expense. No refunds will be given to a student that is sent home due to disciplinary action. The student may be removed from the performing ensemble and other school consequences will be enforced.
- No weapons (as listed in Fulton County policy) allowed at any time, including "toys".
- Students are expected to show proper respect for all chaperones authority at all times. Parents should discuss with their student the need for following the instructions of the chaperones. We hope the students will realize that the chaperones are accepting the responsibility for the students and are giving freely of their time and energy so that our band may have the privilege of taking the trip.
- Students must be appropriately dressed at all times (as per the Cambridge Dress Code).
- Students must behave in an appropriate and quiet manner during travel time – no yelling, profanity, inappropriate language, or horseplay. This includes any time at airports, on planes, during bus trips, and especially as an audience.
- Curfews are to be strictly followed. During overnight trips, students will be in their assigned room for room check and remain in that room until breakfast, except in the case of an emergency.
- Personal display of affection between band members is not appropriate while a part of the band function.
- All electronic devices must be used with headphones at all times, even in hotel rooms.
- Students are not to play their instruments outside of the designated practice area.
- Always conduct yourself with class and professionalism. Treat other bands with the same respect as you would have shown to us by others.

Students and parents must understand that discipline problems and violations of the school system's behavior policies will not be tolerated. Any issues will be referred to a director, or the administrator traveling with us. For any significant issues, students will be given a warning, with any further issue the student will be instructed to phone home and explain their behavior and that any further issues may mean the student will be sent home at their parents' expense. For severe problems, the directors or administrators may make the decision that the student is to be sent home immediately at the parents' expense.

It is the sincere intent of the band staff that everyone enjoys traveling with the band and has a good time – both students and chaperones. All rules are to ensure the safety of everyone and allow us all to have an enjoyable time together. Parents should make sure the emergency contact information is up-to-date and

someone can be reached should an emergency occur. Chaperones are always limited and parents may be asked to assist with any emergency needs for their student when applicable.

Please keep this sheet for your records and keep all contained contact information for each trip in case of a need to contact your student while traveling.