



Cedar Creek

Eagle Band

*Play It! Feel It! Live It!*

# **Freshman Parent Handbook**

## **2011-2012**

### **Welcome to the**

### **Cedar Creek High School**

### **Eagle Band**

By allowing your child to join the Cedar Creek Eagle Band, you have already made a commitment to supporting music education at its finest! The hard work, self discipline and many diverse experiences encountered will provide a lifetime of great memories for both your child and you.

For the rest of this school year and the beginning of next year, you will most likely have many questions about the Eagle Band. While this booklet will hopefully answer many of your questions, we know there are some we missed. We encourage you to call the Eagle Band Hall when any questions arise.

### **Our Mission Statement**

The Eagle Band is an academic program dedicated to providing the youth of our high school and community with the means to develop life skills, musical skills, performance skills, build character and foster teamwork while cultivating the talents of tomorrow's leaders.

### **Eagle Band Boosters**

The Eagle Band Booster organization is a parent group recognized by the school district to represent the band. This booster group is one of the largest parent organizations at Cedar Creek High School. Our purpose is to support the students involved in the Eagle Band program and to facilitate activities of the students and the band.

The Eagle Band Boosters provide support to the band in a variety of ways ranging from chaperoning scheduled Band activities to fundraising for student equipment and trips.

As a parent of a Band member you have the opportunity to become a member of the Eagle Band Boosters. This organization depends upon the involvement of every parent with a student in the Band. Although committee work is not a requirement for membership, we encourage everyone to get involved and experience the fun and satisfaction of supporting our students and the Band.

What you are willing to offer of your time and talents will make all the difference to the band students. We really do need your help to whatever extent you can offer! Opportunities to become involved include helping with a number of fundraisers throughout the year which provide Band members with much needed equipment, props, extra instructors, trip funds, marching shows, music and supplies. These events include numerous marching contests, dinners, percussion competitions, winter guard shows, and other booster-sponsored activities. Several events such as our spring banquet and senior night are held to honor our Band students. Web pages, emails and monthly meetings are designed to keep everyone informed and up to date.

Supporting the Band at football games, contests and chaperoning during the many Band events are a few more ways to become involved. The Eagle Band Boosters meet several times throughout the year in the Band Hall at Cedar Creek High School. Our meetings are the best way to stay in touch with everything that is band related.

The Cedar Creek High School Band will also have a website which will contain up-to-date information about the band as well as downloads for various forms. The Charms website is currently how to best access this information. [www.charmsoffice.com](http://www.charmsoffice.com) and use the logon CedarCreekBand. Your password will be your student ID.

In the meantime, should you have any questions that this handbook does not cover, please feel free to contact us.

Rick Kutcher  
Chris Mendez  
Band Directors  
Cedar Creek High School



## **Joining the Eagle Band**

**Q. Will my son or daughter need to audition to be member of the Eagle Band?**

**A.** Yes! Auditions will not be used to eliminate anyone from band but your child must have an audition score on file to be a member. Auditions will take place in May for band placement only. This helps us to put students in the correct class periods based on ability levels. All students are required to be in the marching band.

**Q. Will my son or daughter need to try out to be a member of the color guard?**

**A.** Yes. There will be a week - long guard camp with tryouts on the last couple days. No prior experience is required.

**Q. How does my child sign up for band?**

**A.** Make sure you sign up with your counselor, Middle School Band Director or one of the High School Band Directors.

**Q. Is there a specific music class that my child should register for in the 9th grade?**

**A.** As a musician in the Eagle Band your child is expected to schedule a band class. Auditions are held every May and November for band placement. The High School Band Directors will give all band assignments to the counselors so your student needs to do nothing to make schedule changes.

## **Schedules of Activities**

**Q. When can we see a schedule for the year?**

**A.** The complete schedule is currently being developed.

**Q. How do we keep up to date on band schedule changes, since our kids don't tell us anything?**

**A.** The best way to stay on top of the Band's activities is to attend the Eagle Band Booster meetings, check the Charms Office Assistant, and eventually check the website.

**Q. When does the Band Practice?**

**A.** Band camp starts August 1st until August 5<sup>th</sup> and August 8th until August 12th. Hours are from 8:00am - 3:00pm. When school starts, Band practice will be:

Monday nights 6:00 – 9:00PM

There will also be sectionals, one (1) per week for each section to work on show music, as well as region band audition music.

**Q. Why this rehearsal schedule?**

**A.** In order for the Cedar Creek Eagle Band to become a top-rated band, we must rehearse like one.

**Q. When does the Eagle Band perform?**

**A.** The Band performs at all Cedar Creek HS football games, pep rallies, and parades. The Band will also perform at 3 to 5 marching contests in October and November. Please observe the schedule carefully as all of these performances are required and count as a test grade for your student. Football games are usually Thursday nights from August to November and marching contests usually occur on Saturdays in October. Please do not schedule family outings or trips that conflict with this schedule, as your student is a vital piece of the entire picture.

**Q. Are all practices and performances mandatory?**

**A.** Yes! Each Band member contributes a piece of the puzzle that is on display each week during our season. It is important to have all of the pieces of the puzzle at rehearsal. However, there are occasions that can't be avoided (i.e. Illness or unavoidable academic or school-related conflict) and the band member may be excused by the Band Director with proper notification. The attendance policy will be outlined in the Band handbook, which each band member will receive in August. The handbook will also be posted on the band web page.

**Q. Is the Band trip required?**

**A.** The year-end trip is the culminating activity for the season. The band will perform at a prestigious venue and the students receive both a positive learning experience and a reward for their hard work and effort. Participation is strongly encouraged. The cost of the trip is the students' responsibility. We set the trip and payment options and dates up at the beginning of the school year. Students will have ample time and opportunities to raise money for this exciting time.

**Q. Does attendance at games, contests and rehearsals affect my child's Band grade?**

**A.** Yes! Marching Band is considered an extension of the classroom and will be graded. All rehearsals are considered extensions of the classroom as well. All games and contests are test grades. Advance notification of 24 hours is required from absentees of any rehearsal and 1 week notice is required for any performances.

**Q. Can parents attend rehearsals and performances?**

**A.** Yes! Parents are encouraged to attend any and all band activities.

**Q. How do the students get to various performances?**

**A.** Keeping track of a large group can be a difficult task. For this reason we ask that your children travel to and from all events with the Band on school buses.

**Q. How does eligibility affect my student for rehearsals and performances?**

**A.** If your child becomes ineligible due to grades they may not attend any games or contests. They are still required to attend all rehearsals and scheduled concerts as part of their band grade.

**Q. What is an alternate?**

**A.** While every student is a member of the Eagle Band, not all students will march at contests. Due to changing numbers due to ineligibility, illness and injury we must have students in reserve to fill spots as they become open. The students are evaluated weekly on playing and marching abilities to determine who has a spot in the contest show. All members of the Band will march at games. Alternates are required to attend all contests and fill other vital roles in the Band at these contests. These roles will include helping with equipment, props and numerous other activities. Band is one of the few activities that freshman through seniors all compete at the varsity level. Sometimes it takes freshman a little longer to catch up on the demands of varsity competition. With hard work and individual practice you will see your freshman child grow into and accept the level of expectation required.

## **Chaperones**

### **Q. How are chaperones assigned?**

**A.** Chaperones are selected and assigned by the Head Chaperone. The Band Director is in contact with the Head Chaperone weekly to discuss all chaperone issues. A great deal of time and effort is taken to ensure our child's safety.

### **Q. What are the chaperones' responsibilities?**

**A.** Duties for chaperones vary from event to event and are discussed at the chaperone meeting before departure. Chaperones are expected to do the following: relay accurate information, do bus counts, assist with equipment, distribute water, escort students to the restrooms and help keep our band safe.

### **Q. How do I volunteer to become a chaperone or to participate in any other Band Booster events?**

**A.** At the first booster meeting you can get a VIP form and turn it in to the Booster President. You might also receive a VIP form on the first day of school. You may sign up for any activities that you feel comfortable with at this time. You can also call the Band Booster president.

### **Q. Do volunteers wear any special clothes?**

**A.** You will have the opportunity to purchase an Eagle Band Booster shirt at your first meeting. We ask that all volunteers wear these so you can be identified quickly.

## **Uniforms**

### **Q. Are there any costs involved with the uniform?**

**A.** The Band uniforms are issued by Cedar Creek High School. There is a \$100.00 band fee. You will be required to have a specific pair of band shoes. You will also have a band shirt. Both of these are included in your initial band fee. Any replacements will have to be purchased. Band shirts are worn at all Band activities.



**Q. Where are the uniforms kept?**

**A.** The uniforms will be kept in the uniform room in the band hall. The students need to pick up their uniforms before an event and return it after the event. Please arrive at all events early to facilitate checking out of uniforms. This applies only to uniform coat and pants and hats. Your child's shoes, shirt and socks will be kept at home.

**Q. What is worn under the uniform?**

**A.** Lightweight bike (compression shorts) are ideal and the current show shirt. Denim and bulky clothes that bunch up under the uniform should not be worn.

## **Fundraising**

**Q. Who pays for the end of the year trip?**

**A.** Students pay for the end of the year trip, which can range from \$150.00 to \$600.00 depending on where we are going. One long trip is allowed every 4 years.

**Q. Does my student need to participate in all of the fundraisers?**

**A.** Participation in fundraising is optional but strongly encouraged to help fund the cost of uniforms parts, entry fees for individual contests, trip costs, etc.

**Q. How many fundraisers are held during the year?**

**A.** Usually 3 fundraisers are available per year to participate in.

**Q. What if my child cannot go on the trip at the last minute?**

**A.** A cancellation policy can be found in the Band director's office. The Band Boosters must make trip payments throughout the year and money may become non-refundable, as we get closer to the trip.

**Q. How are the Eagle Band Boosters funded?**

**A.** Funding comes from fundraising activities. The Booster organization will host several events such as Band Bash, Holiday Pops Dinner/Concert, Drawings, car washes, etc. to meet their budget.

**Q. What does the Booster group use its funds for?**

**A.** Funds are used to: purchase major band equipment needs such as an observation tower on our practice field, an equipment trailer, the overhaul of older instruments, audio visual equipment, props for marching show, transportation to marching contests, music and marching drill for marching show, color guard and drum line instructional fees, tech fees, clinicians and judges etc.

**Q. What is the band fee for my child?**

**A.** There is a \$100.00 band fee. Costs associated with uniform cleaning, band shoes, shirt, etc. The band fee is to be paid at the beginning of August. This just to cover the costs of essential elements that are not covered by our district.

## **Closing**

I am sure this document does not answer all of your questions but I hope it goes a long way in giving you an overview of the Eagle Band program. Please browse the web page and use any of the links or contacts to answer any more questions you may have. Feel free to call us with any specific questions.

Please start checking the schedules for this year's events and plan vacations and family activities around the Band events. Your child is a very valuable part of our organization and we look forward to working with you and your child this year to make this a truly great organization.