

Freshman and New Parent Guide to the Legendary Conroe Tiger Band 2017-2018

Welcome to the fun and fast paced world of the Legendary Conroe Tiger Band. You and your band student are about to embark upon a great adventure! Since 1929, the Conroe Tiger Band has entertained literally millions with world-wide, national television and national and local radio performances for the Houston Oilers, Dallas Cowboys, the Texas State Fair, the Houston Astros, TWO New Year's Day Pasadena Tournament of Roses Parades and two presidential performances. The band has letters of commendation from the Texas State Senate, the Texas House of representatives, The City of Conroe, Texas Senator Robert Nichols, Texas Governor Rick Perry and Former President George HW Bush. **Your directors and several parents are providing this information packet so that you can be "IN THE KNOW" and keep up with life in the CTB.**

High School Marching Band:

New Parents have questions mainly about high school marching band more than anything else because it's the part of band **that's NEW**.

- All students in marching band throughout the State of Texas receive physical education (P.E.) waivers. In other words, the State of Texas recognizes marching band as a sport and therefor P.E. Credit is awarded towards high school graduation. All students earn their P.E. Credit by attending **ALL after school** marching band rehearsals and performances (rehearsal schedule released in May for each new school year).
- The marching band is divided into separate classes throughout the school day by ability and specialty: The Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Concert Band, Freshman Honor Band, Freshman Cadet Band, Color Guard, Drum Line and Front Ensemble Percussion. **Because we are split during the day, all students come together after school for the marching activity portion of marching band and, again, earn the P.E. Credit at that time.**
- As with all student groups (Golden Girls, Cheerleaders, Orchestra, ROTC, etc.), there are costs involved. For the band experience, parents and guardians are asked to pay for the following items:
 - Rehearsal shirts
 - Performance shirts and shorts (aka CTB blacks to be worn under the uniform)
 - Black marching band shoes
 - Marching Band Show Production
 - Please see other costs under **Financial Support coming soon**
- **The Marching Band Performances:**
 1. All 10 regular season football games (includes both away and home games)
 2. Four City of Conroe/Montgomery County Parades: Homecoming, Kiwanis Christmas, Project Hope, Go Texan
 3. All marching band competitions (all 5 CISD high schools compete in marching band contests which are on Saturdays except for UIL which falls on a Tuesday)

4. All football play-off games (starting on the following week after the 10th regular season game, going through **Thanksgiving Weekend** and through the 2nd weekend of December depending on CHS football team advancement)
 5. All Pep Rallies during the school day (at Conroe High)
 6. Selected Football Booster Luncheons (small pep band only-First Baptist Church)
 7. Meet the Tigers for the Fall Sports and Spring Sports (at Conroe High)
 8. Any special performance invitations
 9. The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo
 10. CTB Showcase and March-a-thon (summer band parent show)
- **The Conroe Tiger Band is known by the State of Texas as the VARSITY Marching Band at Conroe High School.** It is an honor and a privilege to be in the varsity marching band and with that, comes the great responsibility in belonging to something bigger than one's self. Any student may be removed from the varsity marching band and placed on either probation or alternate status at any time for the following:
 1. disciplinary infractions (please see CHS student handbook/CTB handbook)
 2. excessive absences which interfere with a student's ability to learn and memorize and perfect the marching drill and/or music from week to week, football game to football game, and contest to contest
 3. excessive absences which impede the progress of others attempting to learn and perfect drill and/or music
 4. excessive tardiness to after school rehearsals
 5. inability to meet marching fundamental and/or drill execution standard of expectations (as set forth by UIL, BOA, US Bands and other entities)
 6. inability to meet music learning and/or memorization standard of expectations (as set forth by UIL, BOA, USBands and other entities)
 - **During Football Season,** the band attends all games (both home and away) to play stand tunes, perform music for the Golden Girls and Cheerleaders and perform its show at half time. The band also attends several marching band competitions in September, October and early November (depending on the year). Students are required to attend all games and contests.
 - **In addition, LIKE JUNIOR HIGH,** there is a holiday concert, TMEA region band, jazz, and orchestra auditions, UIL solo and ensemble contest, pre-UIL contest, UIL concert and sight-reading contest, spring concert. Also there are the parades as mentioned earlier, meet the tigers, in-school pep rallies and the band travels both in the State of Texas and outside the State of Texas on annual band trips.
 - **Summer Band practices** have been conducted by the CTB since 1935. Summer practices generally begin around the 1st of August (depending on the year). Summer band is to learn and perfect all marching fundamentals, begin to learn the competition show, learn half-time show coordination with the Golden Girls, learn Golden Girl half-time music, learn stand tunes, and learn and improve music fundamentals. Mornings will be outdoors and afternoons will be indoors.
 1. wear comfortable, light color, light weight, athletic clothing
 2. socks with running shoes - NO sandals, flip flops, skate shoes, basketball shoes, casual or boat shoes
 3. sunscreen, sunglasses, hat, bug repellent
 4. 1/2 gallon insulated jug filled with ice water (students are responsible for this)

5. During lunch breaks, all students must eat at the school and not travel to lunch. We do not like students to walk across Highway 105 to eat at Taco bell, etc. There have been several accidents involving CHS students in the past when crossing Highway 105. Students may have something dropped off for them as well.

6. During summer band practices, before and after summer band practices, each student will be required to pass off certain music and marching maneuvers or drill before the entire section can receive their gold stars. There will be fierce competition to be the first section to receive its gold stars. The first section to receive its gold stars will have special privileges throughout the fall season.

7. Ask your student when they need to stay after rehearsals in order to satisfy this requirement. Please be flexible because teens have a habit of telling their parents about important things at the last minute.

- **After-School marching band rehearsals** are held several times per week during the week. Mondays are 3:30 - 5:30 pm , Tuesdays and Thursdays are 3:30 - 6:30 pm. Most Wednesdays are off for tutorials, doctor appointments, and such, however; we do hold rehearsal when Monday is a school holiday or if we need to make up a rehearsal due to inclement weather. We rehearsal no matter what the weather does, but there are a few times where we will need to cancel and reschedule if there is no chance to get any outside marching within a rehearsal. These rehearsals are vital to the success of the marching band. Each student depends on all students for his/her success and to feel good about the time spent outdoors. To belong to something bigger than one's self is a great feeling and teaches that everyone on a team must contribute daily for the success of the team. Students needing after school tutorials have between 2:35pm and 3:15pm to visit with teachers for their academic needs.
- **After-School Academics**, also known as tutorials and test-make-ups is a common high school cultural phenomenon. This is why our band rehearsals start at 3:30pm so students can get extra help from their teachers. All band students have from 2:35pm until 3:15pm to participate in tutorials (or club activities for that matter). Between 3:15pm and 3:25pm, all band students are expected to begin preparations to arrive at the practice area by 3:30pm. We try to give one day a week off for all students to take care of tutorials, test corrections, etc. Please make sure that these rehearsal free days are when we schedule these items. Doctor appointments fall into this category as well, **please do not schedule any appointment during after school rehearsal times.**
- **Football Games** are a great time in the life of each student. Home games are played in Buddy Moorhead Stadium located on the campus of Conroe High School. Away games are located various locations in and around the Greater Houston Area. For away games, the students leave directly from school on either chartered bus transportation or CISD school buses. For both home and away games, the kids will need to eat. The kids have the option of bringing a sack lunch, having their parents bring them a meal or may participate in a local restaurant meal delivery if they have pre-paid and pre-ordered on the designated day of the week by the band boosters.

- **The game day schedule for both home and away games is approximately:**

-HOME GAME DAY:

- Football booster luncheon (seniors/wind ensemble)
- in school prep rally (entire marching band w/color guard)
- 3:30 Moorhead Stadium rehearsal
- 4:30 Dinner
- 5:15 Inspection
- 5:45 Pre-game warm-up/tune up begins
- 6:30 Depart band hall for march down Wilson Rd
- 6:50 Arrive at Moorhead Stadium and march in!
- 7:30 Game Starts-Go Tigers!
- 9:45 Game over (approximately)
- school song and Tiger Boogie performance
- warm-down and announcements
- head to the "House" (band hall)
- turn in uniform, clean up after yourselves
- dismissal from the band hall

AWAY GAME DAY:

- possible pep rally/special game
- 3:00 Moorhead Stadium rehearsal
- 4:00 Dinner/load trucks
- 4:45 Inspection
- 5:00 Load buses and depart
- 6:30 Arrival at away game
- unload/ready for game
- move to stadium seating
- 7:30 Game starts
- (Some games start at 7:00pm)
- 9:45 Game over (approximately)
- school song and Tiger Boogie performance
- warm-down and announcements
- load trucks and buses
- depart for Conroe HS
- unload trucks and buses
- turn in uniform, clean up after yourselves
- retrieve instrument from loading dock
- dismissal from band hall

- The actual football game itself last about 2 hours BUT with player injuries, delay of game or peculiar game events may extend the game sometimes until 10:00 or 10:15pm. Also, drive time back to Conroe High from away games, may vary depending on the destination. We provide a hard copy and an e-mail copy of the game day itinerary to all parents and students.
- On game days, please help your student pack everything needed for the game. **In the event of rain, we always arrive at the game site (home or away) and then decide procedure with the guidance of our principal and opposing school officials and UIL officials.**
- **Marching Uniforms are assigned to every student and provided by the CISD.**

CISD provides: one marching jacket, one pair of bib pants, one shako, one plume, one pair of gauntlets, and one Conroe cape for parades.

Parents/students provide:

- tall black socks, (no skin should be seen)
- official black marching band shoes, (made for football field surfaces and marching technique)
- band shirt (to be worn under jacket because it serves as the casual uniform)
- band shorts (to be worn under pants because it serves as the casual uniform)
- three white practice shirts (because we have three rehearsals per week, this saves on laundry)

Conroe Band Parents (aka: the Band Boosters)

The Conroe Band Booster Organization is an IRS 501C3 designated non-profit organization that exists to support the band students, band directors, and their activities. This is an organization of all band parents who go the extra mile to ensure that their kids have what other school band students have. The CTB Parents have been organized under various names since the 1940's. The duties of the booster organization include the following:

1. Financial Support
2. Chaperoning all football games, contests, trips
3. Assisting with the loading/unloading of trucks and equipment
4. organizing/hosting band parties
5. uniform organization, maintenance, and check-out
6. providing water, snacks, and meals during games/contests/parades
7. maintaining equipment and props
8. assisting band directors
9. capital improvements
10. maintaining storage units
11. providing spirit at games/contests/social events
12. web maintenance/posting/updating, etc.

Meetings are typically held the 2nd Tuesday of every month. Meetings are approximately one hour. **Attending booster meetings is the best way** to stay informed and contribute to the band's activities.

1. be introduced to and hear reports from the band directors and booster club officers
2. be able to purchase booster club items
3. sign up for chaperon activities such as games, contests, parties, dances, etc.
4. receive answers to your questions
5. collaborate with other band supporters to help efficiently run the band program

Being a Band Fan, Booster and Super Hero to your Student:

- Since 1948, starting with the “**Conroe Band Moms**” organized by then band director Ed Cannan’s wife, **Mrs. Cannan**, there has been a continuous organized support group for the Conroe Tiger Band. Who is the support group? It's us! It's parents, guardians, grandmas, grandpas, and all family members of our band students that care for the success of their children. It's a great thing when you look at the band during a football game, because you see around 400 kids in uniform, and seated in the section next to the band, you also see about 800 or more “band people” supporting the band.
- These people, all dressed in gold, black and/or white, are the parents/guardians, grandparents and brothers and sisters of the band students (AKA: our BAND FANS). It is awesome!!! It is especially awesome on away games because the band families make up most of the Conroe spectator side with the football parents and Golden Girl Parents. Very cool stuff!!
- Each year, our high school band parents transform into Super Band Parents by “boostering” their children.

- It takes a great amount of “behind the scenes” help **to care for and protect** a legendary program such as ours, and it takes a lot of people power to move 400 kids in the same direction, at the same time, doing the same thing and with their equipment! Did you know that it is estimated that with privately owned instruments along with all of our Conroe Band equipment and uniforms that we handle around half a million dollars of inventory needs at every marching performance? Please help us by volunteering for as many performances as possible.

- **Band parents are our Band Boosters.** All middle school parents and guardians do so much for their junior high students. However, because of marching band, WE NEED SO MUCH MORE HELP. The band directors cannot do it alone and that's reality. The great high school marching bands have the “super hero” parents! Many things we need help with are:
 - Chaperoning on buses, trips, in the stadium, and at contests.
 - Being you child's biggest fan!! Being a band fan means attending football games, marching band contests and concerts. Just cheering at the contests makes all of the kids feel great and they try harder for the judges and audience.
 - Watering and feeding the kids at every game, marching contest, and parades
 - Uniform room assistance, uniform check-out, uniform fitting
 - Afternoon band hall monitoring while the band is at practice in or around the stadium
 - Loading crews to assist Mrs. Martinez with the trucks
 - Assembling marching props at every game and marching contest
 - Icing and packing the water before a game or contest
 - Preparing or passing out competition and game day meals
 - PIT crews for all of the percussion equipment performed by students
 - Pre-game prep. For example: assisting with hair, make-up removal, last minute uniform dilemmas, taking water to stadium, setting up speaker system in the stands, etc.
 - Post-game assistance. For example: re-load the buses and trucks, unload everything and clean the band hall, bus inspection for cleanliness and lost items, water cooler washing and storage, uniform check-in, etc.
 - Taking attendance as we load buses
 - Escorting students to the restroom during the football games
 - Maintaining equipment such as golf carts, truck, props, pit equipment
 - Capital improvements
 - Spirit at games, contests, parades, social events
 - Web Posting/sending information
 - Financial Support - All school officials wish they could provide tax payer money for every program on every campus within its district but we all know that this is impossible. So...we fundraise like the football teams, the drill teams, cheerleaders, and all of the other school groups across the nation. In order to stay competitive and look as competitive as other bands so that there is **no “perceived disparity”** between us and other school bands, we fundraise for:
 - the marching show (music, drill, design, props, equipment)
 - the color guard
 - **band fees**
 - specialized adjudicator clinicians
 - competition day food for the kids
 - competition day drinks and water

- specialized clinicians (people who spend their whole lives marching and developing new marching band teaching techniques)
 - contest entry fees (costs vary between \$450 to \$1,000 per contest entered)
 - extra transportation costs
 - raffle prizes for students
 - social events
 - equipment maintenance
- **Band Fees are a necessity in this day and time** for each of the five Conroe ISD high school bands, choirs and orchestras. Additionally, many CTB parents apply for and receive band scholarships for their children which help supplement or off-set the costs associated with band.

The CTB Handbook is available to each student and parent. The handbook includes a performance, practice band calendar, grading policies, rules and regulations, rehearsal requirements, CTB requirements, discipline policy, etc. The last page of the handbook must be signed by the student and one parent and, also, must be returned before a student will be issued a uniform.

CHARMSOFFICE is an online system to keep track of student data, financials, inventory, calendar, and communication. We use this system to track attendance at events, keep an updated and live calendar throughout the year, volunteer sign-ups, and a line of communication from the directors and band boosters. Go to www.charmsoffice.com and login to the student/parent section using conroehsband as the username and your student's CISD id number as the password. It will then ask you to create a more secure password.

www.conroetigerband.com is another outlet for information with links to charms, our calendar, important information, booster contacts, fundraiser events, and much more.

Eligibility is extremely important. The State of Texas adopted into law, House Bill 72 back in 1986 which allows UIL along with other Texas Agencies/organizations to govern and monitor all schools throughout the state when it comes to school activities outside of school time. Students must be passing all classes in order to participate in band activities outside of class time. Student ineligibility adversely affects the whole band's performance, whether in the marching band or in one of several concert bands, the jazz band, the drum line, the color guard.

Student Loading and un-loading is typically in front of the Ralph Rowe Music Center. However, we ask that the loading dock never be blocked so that the trucks can maneuver in and out. Parents will have most of the parking lot coned off after games and before events in order to help parents maneuver around the parking lot. Parents may park in the parking lot spaces in front of the Rowe Music Center in order to wait for their children. Please avoid lining up in front of the building as this blocks the percussion and props from entering the building and being dismissed in a timely fashion. We have a lot of equipment that is moved everyday and must unload golf cart trailers in front of the building.