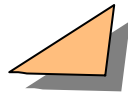


# **Cinco Ranch High School**



## **Cougar Band**

Freshman Parent Handbook

2008-2009

# **Welcome to the Cinco Ranch High School Cougar Band**

By allowing your child to join the very remarkable Cougar 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 Cougar Band. While this booklet will hopefully answer many of your questions, we know there are some we missed. We encourage you to call any of the high school band directors listed later in this book when any questions arise.

## **Our Mission Statement**

The Cougar Band is an educational arts 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.

# Cougar Band Boosters

The Cougar 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 Cinco Ranch High School. Our purpose is to support the students involved in the Cougar Band program and to facilitate activities of the students and the band. The Cougar 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 Cougar 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 the WGI winter guard show, the Katy invitational Marching Contest, homecoming Mums and the Band silent auction. 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 Cougar Band Boosters meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 in the Band Hall at Cinco Ranch High School. Our monthly meetings are the best way to stay in touch with everything that is band related.

The Cougar Band Boosters also maintain the Band website [www.crhscougarband.org](http://www.crhscougarband.org) which contains up-to-date information about the band as well as downloads for various forms.

In the meantime, should you have any questions that this handbook does not cover, please feel free to contact any of the High School Band Directors.

Mike Ouellette     281-237-5046  
                                 281-610-1275

Ray Jones             281-237-5045

Tom Fesler            281-237-5202

Or email at [michaelouellette@katyisd.org](mailto:michaelouellette@katyisd.org)

## **2008-2009 Marching Band Staff**

Director of Bands: Mike Ouellette  
Assistant Band Director: Ray Jones  
Assistant Band Director: Tom Fesler  
Color Guard: Robert Strain

### **Joining the Cougar Band**

**Q. Will my son or daughter need to audition to be a member of the Cougar 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 part of 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. When are auditions scheduled?**

**A.** Your student has signed up for a time after school on either Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday to coincide with freshman marching camp. Please ask your student when their time is.

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

**A.** Make sure you sign up with your counselor, Junior High 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 Cougar Band your child is expected to schedule a band class. Auditions are held every May and December for band placement. The High School Band Directors will give all band assignments to the counselors so your student needs do nothing to make schedule changes.

### **Schedules of activities**

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

A. The complete schedule is usually finalized by the end of the May freshman marching camp. You can see the schedule for the current year on the Band webpage. Look for the calendar and click the link. You do not need to enter a password on the 2<sup>nd</sup> page. Just hit the calendar link again.

**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 Cougar Band Booster meetings and check the website:  
[www.crhscougarband.org](http://www.crhscougarband.org)

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

A. Band practice starts August 4th from 5:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. until school. There also may be afternoon sectionals from 3-5 TBA. When school starts Band practice will be from 4:00 to 6:30 Monday, Tuesday and Thursday.

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

A. The Band performs at all Cinco Ranch football games both home and away. The Band will also perform at 3 to 5 marching contests in October. 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 Friday nights from September 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 webpage.

**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.

**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 a participation grade and all games and contests are test grades. An absentee form is required for missing any scheduled Band activity. Advance notification of 24 hours is required from absentees of any rehearsal and 2 weeks 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 300 Band members is a large and 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 required to still attend rehearsals as part of their band grade.

**Q. What is an alternate?**

**A.** While every student is a member of the Cougar Band, not all students will march at contests. Due to changing numbers from 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 childrens' 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 will given a volunteer form. 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 a maroon Cougar 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 uniform is issued by Cinco Ranch High School. You will be required to have a specific pair of band shoes which can be purchased on uniform check out day for a cost of approx. \$35.

You will also have a band shirt that will be included in your initial band fee. Any replacements will have to be purchased. Band shirts are worn by students 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 shorts and the current band shirt for warmer weather. In cooler weather students may wear sweat pants or warm up pants and long sleeved shirts. 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 \$300.00 to \$1200.00 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 large cost of contests, music and tech support as well as booster operating costs.

**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 can not go on the trip at the last minute?**

**A.** A cancellation policy can be found on the Band webpage before the trip. 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 is the Cougar Band Boosters funded?**

**A.** Funding comes from student fees and fundraising activities. The Booster organization will host several events such as homecoming mums, a WGI winter guard show and the Katy invitational to meet a budget that will exceed \$50,000.00.

**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.** The band fee per child varies and is to be paid at the beginning of August. A new marcher needs to purchase things like shirts, garment bags, tote bags, shoes and rain gear. The cost goes down significantly after the first year. This is not really a fee as it is just to cover the costs of shirts, gloves, marching music, marching drill, dry cleaning, refreshments, equipment truck rental, and props that are not covered by our district.

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 Cougar Band program. Please browse the webpage 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 next 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 next year to make this a truly great organization.

Cougar Band Staff