

2008-2009



**CHARLES M. RUSSELL
HIGH SCHOOL
www.cmrbands.org**

Band program information for Students and Parents

2008-2009 CMR BAND ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

(please post at home)

Listed below are the dates that involve the majority of band students and for which attendance is mandatory. Pep band schedules are not listed and will be provided to pep band members. Marching band involves every student who does not have a waiver for that event, volunteer means that enrichment points are awarded for participation.

SEPTEMBER

| | | | | | |
|----|------|-------------------|------------------------|------------------|------------|
| 5 | Fri. | FB vs West | Marching Band (stands) | Memorial Stadium | 7:00 PM |
| 12 | Fri. | FB vs Sentinel | Marching Band (stands) | Memorial Stadium | 7:00 PM |
| 20 | Sat. | Super Saturday | Required rehearsal | CMR Band Room | 9AM - noon |
| 25 | Thu | Powder Puff Game | Volunteer | Memorial Stadium | 6 PM |
| 26 | Fri. | Homecoming Parade | Marching Band | Downtown | Noon |
| 26 | Fri. | FB vs Hellgate | Marching Band | Memorial Stadium | 7:00 PM |

OCTOBER

| | | | | | |
|-------|-------|----------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------|
| 6 | | All NW Tapes Due | Interested Students | Taping concluded by this time | |
| 15-17 | | All State Convention | Selected Students GFHS | ALL Day | |
| 17 | Fri. | FB vs Big Sky | Marching Band | Memorial Stadium | 7:00 PM |
| 30 | Thur. | Marching Rehearsal | Marching Band | Memorial Stadium | Periods 1-4 |
| 31 | Fri. | FB vs GFHS | Marching Band | Memorial Stadium | 7:00 PM |

NOVEMBER

| | | | | | |
|---------|------|---|-------------------|----------------------|-------|
| 3 | Mon. | Concert | Concert Bands TBA | Bill Williamson Hall | |
| 4 | Tue. | Concert | Concert Bands TBA | Bill Williamson Hall | |
| 5 | Wed. | Fruit sale begins | All students | CMR | Class |
| 7,14,21 | Fri. | Possible Football playoffs and championship. We will play for <u>home</u> playoffs and the championship game if the team makes it that far. | | | |

DECEMBER

| | | | | | |
|----|------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|------------|
| 11 | Fri. | Fruit delivery | All Students | Fair grounds | 3-7 PM |
| 15 | Mon. | Holiday Concert 1 | Symphonic Band | Civic Center | 7:30 PM |
| 16 | Tue. | Holiday Concerts 2&3 | Freshman (6), Rustler (8) | Bill Williamson Hall | 6 PM, 8 pm |

JANUARY

| | | | | | |
|-----|---------|----------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| 8-9 | Thu-Fri | Jazz Workshop | Russtones | Bill Williamson Hall | 7:30 PM |
| 29 | Thu. | Fine Arts Assembly | Symphonic Band | North Middle School | School |

FEBRUARY

| | | | | | |
|-------|------------------|-------------------|-------------|--|--|
| 12-15 | NW MENC | Selected students | Spokane, WA | | |
| 23,24 | AA Band Festival | Symphonic | CMR | | |

MARCH

| | | | | | |
|----|------|----------------|---------------------------|----------------------|-----------|
| 3 | Tue | Winter Concert | Freshman (6), Rustler (8) | Bill Williamson Hall | 6 or 8 PM |
| 10 | Tue | MIOSM | Symphonic | Civic Center | 7:30 PM |
| 25 | Wed. | Dallas Brass | Symphonic | Civic Center | 7:30 PM |

APRIL

| | | | | | |
|---|------|----------------------------|------------------------|-----------|-----|
| 2 | Thu | DISTRICT MUSIC FEST | All Bands | GFHS Aud. | TBA |
| 3 | Fri. | District Solo/ensemble | Participating Students | CMR | TBA |

MAY

| | | | | | |
|----|------|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------|
| 5 | Tue. | Fine Arts Assembly | Symphonic Band | Bill Williamson Hall | School |
| 19 | Tue. | AWARDS CONCERT | Symphonic, Russtones | Bill Williamson Hall | 7:30 PM |
| 26 | Thu. | SPRING CONCERT | Freshman/Rustler | Bill Williamson Hall | 6/8 PM |

JUNE

| | | | | | |
|---|------|----------------|---------------|---------|------|
| 1 | Mon. | CMR Graduation | New Symphonic | CMR Gym | 7 PM |
|---|------|----------------|---------------|---------|------|

Welcome to the band program at CMR. Over nearly 4 decades this band has developed an enviable tradition of excellence. Your attitude and commitment to individual excellence will determine the quality of your experience as a member of the ensembles at CM Russell High School. Please use this handbook as a reference to help answer questions you may have about the band.

SUCCESS in music can be defined in many different ways. For some it may be the feeling you get from doing your best at a performance. For others it may be membership in All-State or All-Northwest honor groups. Whatever your criteria, a successful and rewarding experience for each student is the goal of the band program at CMR. The essential elements for a rewarding experience are:

PARTICIPATION: Participating fully in the band program is key to a good experience. Get involved with the pep band, play a solo or in an ensemble for district music festival, audition for All State or All Northwest band and set individual goals for you own performance.

HOME PRACTICE: Practicing is your homework for band. Consistent daily practice is the only way to develop the tone quality, technique, and musical expression required for performance at this level. Each performer in an ensemble must master their part for the band to excel. The school has practice rooms available for students whose instrument makes it difficult to transport. Practice is most effective if it is done on a daily basis, in a quiet environment, and with a goal in mind. It is important to keep working until the goal has been met.

PRIVATE LESSONS: Private lessons are not required but learning to play an instrument is very difficult and every musician will need to get some help. Each instrument requires a very different set of skills and the best way to master these is help from a private instructor. The Public Schools, Great Falls Symphony, and local music teachers have compiled a master list of private instructors is available through the directors. Many of these teachers are willing to work around the hectic schedule of high school students. Scholarships are available for students who are unable to afford these lessons and are listed later in the handbook.

COMMUNICATION: Students or their parents should feel free to contact any director at the band office during the hours listed below to discuss any aspect of involvement in the band program. Free periods are 3rd and 4th or before and after school. In the event of an emergency, parents and/ or students may phone Mr. Kellogg at home in the evenings.

CMR Band Office: 268-6121 (7:30-8:00 a.m.; 3:30-5:00 p.m.)

Mr. Kellogg's home phone: 771-1759 (6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.)

Newsletter: I publish “notes” on a weekly basis to remind students and parents of upcoming events. The notes are available on the band website, www.cmrbands.org and will be posted in the band room. You will receive notice by email that the notes have been updated so be sure to give an email address that you check!

BANDS

MAVERICK, CHAPARRAL These bands are made up of Freshman students and not divided by ability level.

PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE All non-symphonic or Rustler band percussionists

RUSTLER BAND Students in this group are primarily in the sophomore and junior classes who did not make or audition for Symphonic band.

SYMPHONIC BAND The Symphonic band is a select group made up from students in all grades. Auditions are in the spring.

RUSSTONES Russtones is the school jazz ensemble. Students in this group must be members of another large ensemble at the school and are selected by audition in the spring.

MARCHING BAND: The marching band is made up of students from all of the other bands who do not have a direct conflict with a varsity sport. This band rehearses during class time with the exception of Thursday afternoons preceding performances, and one Saturday morning. Marching Band is part of the required curriculum so grades are assigned and attendance required for all rehearsals and performances. After school sectionals may be required and will be announced as needed. Non-marching members are expected to participate by playing, learning marching fundamentals, filling in for missing people, and helping with equipment and other logistics. Waivers are available for students who have a direct conflict with specific performances because of involvement in fall sports, cheerleading and drill or flag team.

Any student seeking a waiver of participation for marching band must fill out and return a waiver request form by Friday, September 7th.

PEP BAND: All students enrolled in a band at CMR are eligible for participation in the Pep Band. A forty-five member pep band will perform at selected home basketball games during the school year. The band will travel to the tournaments when the teams qualify. Pep band membership is an important element in qualifying for a Band Letter. Students who make the commitment to play in the pep band are expected to participate throughout the season and attend all performances.

OTHER PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES: Taking part in musical opportunities outside of the school band is another key element in the development of your musical abilities. Here is a partial list of musical events in our community.

- All-Northwest Honor Band (not applicable this year)
- All-State Honor Band (Auditions in the spring)
- Great Falls Youth Orchestra (Auditions both in the fall and the spring)
- District Music Festival solos and ensembles (in April)
- Solo or ensemble performances in the community
- GF municipal band (summer)
- Music camps

Scholarships and Awards

Private Lesson Scholarships:

Band- The band offers \$150 scholarships to help defray the cost of private lessons. One scholarship per year per student.

Conner- The Michael Patrick “Cosmo” Conner foundation offers 3 scholarships worth \$300 apiece for private lessons. You need to pick up an application from Mr. Kellogg.

Summer Music Camp Scholarships:

Both the Band and the Conner Foundation offer scholarships for students who would like to attend a music camp during the summer. Applications may be picked up from Mr. Kellogg after the Spring Concert.

Bill and Helen Cane Scholarships:

Three \$100 scholarships from the Bill and Helen Cain Foundation awarded each spring to the undergraduate flute, clarinet, and saxophone player who show the most improvement and initiative during the year.

Senior Merit Award:

\$100 to the senior student who has helped the band the most during the school year.

Louis Armstrong Award:

This award is given to the outstanding senior in the Russtones jazz ensemble each spring. It comes with a Trophy, Plaque, and \$100

John Phillip Sousa Award:

This award is given to the outstanding senior member of the Symphonic Band and is voted on by the students in the band.

Rick Carroll Memorial Scholarship:

A \$500 scholarship for students who are continuing the study of music in college. Applications are available from Mr. Kellogg in the spring

Dwight Welter Memorial Scholarship:

This scholarship is also available to students who wish to continue the study of music in college. The amount varies with the success of the stock market and can be applied for in the spring.

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

1. Be on time. A second unexcused tardy will result in a 20 minute detention, then an office referral on the 5th.
2. No food or drink in the band room. This includes gum.
3. Respect other students and the equipment. Do not touch anything which does not belong to you unless asked to by the director.
4. Practice good rehearsal discipline at all times.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Students are responsible for reeds, valve oil, slide cream, mutes, sticks and cleaning supplies. Some of these items may be purchased from the band.
2. Students should have a pencil for each rehearsal.
3. Meeting deadlines.
4. Each instrument should be have a case tag.

UNIFORMS

Marching Band: Uniforms will be distributed to all marching band members prior to the first performance. Each member is responsible for supplying his or her own white socks and white shoes. Athletic shoes are fine if they are white and not high tops. Stripes will need to be covered. A fee of \$120 will be charged for lost or damaged uniforms.

Symphonic Band: Girls will wear uniform dresses provided by the band and their own black, flat soled shoes. Boys will wear uniform tuxedos and supply their own black socks and black dress shoes. A rental fee of **10 dollars** will be assessed for these items. A sweatshirt or T-shirt will be selected by the band council at a cost not to exceed 25 dollars to be worn as the bands informal attire for AA band festival and for tour.

Rustler, Maverick, and Chaparral Bands: All Band members will purchase shirt which will function as the concert uniform along with **black slacks, black socks, and black shoes** to be provided by the student. The shirts will cost no more than 15 dollars and will also serve as the pep band uniform.

FUND RAISING: Fund raising is an essential part of providing a quality experience for the students. The money raised allows the band to take trips, and is used to supplement money provided by the district to update equipment and supplies. The band has two major fund raising activities.

Fruit Sale: The annual fruit sale provides over 60% of the operating money and is the only student generated fund raiser. The sale this year sale begins on **Wednesday, November 7th**. The fruit will be delivered on **Friday, December 7th**. Details will be provided later.

Concession Stand: Each year about 40% of the funds used for student band activities are raised through concession stand sales at home football games. This is one of the best opportunities for parents to help the band program.

Lettering in Band

You will earn points in extra and co-curricular activities to get a Band Letter. The lettering requirements are as follows:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Band Letter | 600 points |
| Band Bar (second year letter) | 800 points |
| Second Bar (third year letter) | 1000 points |

Points are earned in the following categories:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Solo at District Festival | 100 points |
| Ensemble member at District Festival | 50 points |
| Marching Band season | 100 points (one excused game allowed) |
| Pep Band season | 100 points (two excused allowed) |
| All State Band Member | 150 points |
| All NW Band Member | 200 points |

The Band Director is allowed to award points to individuals in special circumstance, i.e. special education band members or handicapped students who cannot march.

Great Falls Public Schools
GRADING
Great Falls Public Schools
High School Band Grading Procedure

Being in a Performing Arts class such as Band is about learning to become an artist. All artists must have certain skills in order to further their Art. Your band grade will be a reflection of your ability to meet the skill levels needed to be a competent high school band musician.

I truly believe that every student that signs up for band class is an “A” student—one who is willing to do much more than the average student to achieve success in the academic system. Music kids are willing to work hard and commit to team goals or they would not be in music classes at the high school level. The problem has always been designing a system that rewards students for extra work, and also keeps students honest and continues to encourage them to keep striving to fulfill musical goals and ambitions. I know and appreciate the fact that my students will work very hard in band class to meet the tremendous performance and musical goals the curriculum requires, and that the community has come to expect.

Therefore, every student enrolled in band at CMR will automatically get an “A” to start the semester (100 percent). The “A” is based on 100% participation and 100% achievement on all tests, quizzes, assignments, and performances. If you have a bad experience with a playing test, or a quiz, you can do Enrichment/Service work to get your grade back up to where you are comfortable with it.

Failure to attend a performance (either marching band or a concert) will result in a double loss of points for the event. For instance, if a concert is worth 100 points and you are absent, you will lose 200 points on your grade. *Performances are the equivalent of unit tests in the band room, and are extremely important for you to attend.* The band relies on every member of the group to be there when it comes time to perform!

Grading Points

Concerts **100 points**

Marching Band Performances **100 points**

Marching Band Stands only **50 points**

Playing Tests **80 points**

Tests and Quizzes up to **25 points**

Other activities/assignments may be added to the required point list as needed.

Enrichment and Band Service Opportunities

Enrichment Opportunities (All forms are available on the website, www.cmrbands.org)

Attending other live music events **5 points** (must show proof of attendance)

Listening to CDs from Band Listening Library **10 points** (must complete Listening Form available on the website)

Practice Slips **1 point for 15 min.** of practice time (must complete Practice Slip)

Pass of Smartmusic Exercises **2 points** (must show proof of 90% or better and complete the form)

Private Lessons **5 points for each lesson** (must hand in Private Lesson Form)

Outside of school music performances (i.e. church, social clubs, Johnny Mac, Youth Orchestra) are worth points toward enrichment depending upon the length of the performance. See me for more details.

Service Opportunities

Concert set-up or tear-down **10 points**

Room Cleaning/band director help **5-20 points** (varies with size of project)

Other service opportunities will be available throughout the year, and will be announced in class.

The question always comes up “Do I have to practice for a grade?”. The answer is No, but you do have to practice. You must be prepared to play your part for class—not to learn your part in class. Rehearsal is about learning how your part fits in with the other instruments in class, not about figuring out notes and rhythms. Some people will have to practice more than others, depending upon the difficulty of the part or the talent of the player. Practice until you can play the part and feel comfortable doing it without the band supporting you.

For students involved in extra-curricular activities that conflict with performances, I will either waive the performance from your grade or give you a make-up assignment, depending upon each activity. You must contact me at least two weeks in advance of the conflict.

Family and Medical emergencies will be dealt with on an individual basis. Advance notice of conflicts is much appreciated—even a phone call or email the night of the event lets me know that you are OK and I am not worried about your absence. We can deal with the grade later when you return.

Work conflicts are not excused absences. You have a Band Events calendar and you are expected to get performance dates off from work. Your first job needs to be School, and performances are part of your school commitment.

The classroom schedule for the school year will allow students time in class to introduce and review tested items, but students will need to refine the skills taught and reviewed in class at home in their own daily practice schedule.

A rough break down of the school year is as follows:

QTR 1: Test on chromatic scales and rhythm charts, chair test, review major scales

QTR 2: Test on major scales and rhythm charts, chair test, review chromatic scales, music history

QTR 3: Test on District Festival music, test on sight reading, review minor scales

QTR 4: Test on minor scales and rhythm charts, chair test, review finger patterns in major, minor, chromatic scales

SCALE PASS OFFS: Students will advance through the following steps on their scale grades:

All scales are in concert pitch!

- 1. Chromatic scales:** One octave Bb, Two octave F, Full Range of instrument (based on MHSA All-State auditions)
- 2. Proficient scales:** Major scales in C, F, Bb, Eb, Ab, Db, Gb. Minor scales in a, d, g, c, f, bb, eb
- 3. Advanced scales:**
 - All 12 major and minor keys, one octave
 - All 12 major and minor keys, two octave (7 for brass players)
 - All 12 major and minor keys, from memory
 - All 12 major and minor keys, from memory, timed (under 60 seconds)

PARENTAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT

My signature indicates that _____ brought home the band calendar for

(Student Name/Names)

the 2008-2009 school year. I have read the information and understand that there are performances and occasional rehearsals outside the regular school day for which attendance is required to fulfill class requirements. I also understand that I am responsible for the rest of the information in the band handbook which is available on the band website, www.cmrbands.org . If you would prefer a hardcopy of the band handbook indicate that on the form below and I will send one home with your son or daughter.

- _____ I will read the handbook on the website.
_____ I would like a hardcopy of the handbook.

(Parent or guardian signature)

(date)

Newsletter

I would like to receive notification concerning band events via the following email address.

- Name _____ email address _____
Name _____ email address _____
Name _____ email address _____

PARENTS, THE BAND NEEDS YOUR HELP

The band receives approximately 40% of it's operating budget from the concession stands at the football games. We will need 20-22 adult workers at each home game between 6:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Please indicate the dates you think you may be available, and how many workers including spouse, friends and relatives who may also be able to help. Someone will contact you during the week before the game to ask you to work. Signing up for a game does not mean you will be working unless you are called. This years games are on the following dates.

- _____ FRIDAY, September 5
_____ FRIDAY, September 12
_____ THURSDAY, September 25 (Powder Puff Game)
_____ FRIDAY, September 26 Homecoming
_____ FRIDAY, October 17
_____ FRIDAY, October 31

In the event we host a playoff and/or championship game, we may also need help for these dates.

- _____ FRIDAY, November Playoff
_____ FRIDAY, November 14 Playoff
_____ FRIDAY, November 21 (Championship)

_____ I'M UNCERTAIN OF MY SCHEDULE BUT CALL ME IF YOU ARE IN A BIND.

_____ I don't like concessions but would be willing to help in other ways so call me when something comes up!

- Workers Name(s) _____ Best Phone # _____
(Print please)
_____ Best Phone # _____
(Print please)
_____ Best Phone # _____
(Print please)

STUDENT NAME _____ BAND _____ GRADE _____
(Print please)