



Cinco Ranch High School Band

Ray Jones Rory Davis Danny Rivera, directors



Dear Parents,

We are so excited to introduce you and your child to the Cinco Ranch High school band program. This is an exciting time of transition in their education, and life. As you know, the time is near to make course selections for next year. As the directors of the Cougar Band, it is our hope that all 8th grade band members would choose to continue their music education by becoming a member of the Cougar Band family. We hope that you will support and encourage your son or daughter to work out a schedule that includes band.

There are many reasons to be involved in band at Cinco Ranch. Cinco Ranch High School is an outstanding school with an outstanding band program. With high school being much larger than our junior high schools, it can create the tendency for students to feel lost in their new environment. The Cougar Band gives students a place of belonging, value, and a chance to be an important part of the Cinco Ranch Cougar family by joining an instant group of friends with a similar interest. In addition, the Cougar Band creates the opportunity to continue the development of many skills that will benefit them in every walk of life, from academic to corporate and social. Skills such as self-discipline, self-evaluation, creative thinking, problem solving, and time management are in high demand in our society, not to mention the ability to work as a productive member of a group. These are skills that will serve your son or daughter not only at Cinco Ranch, but on through college and beyond.

There is a common misconception that the extra work required to participate in band will have a negative impact on a student's GPA or their class rank. This misconception is quite the contrary. A large number of band students at Cinco Ranch take AP classes, and we have students in the top 10% each year. A survey each year of the TMEA All-State organizations, the "Best of the Best" high school musicians in the state, shows that the average SAT scores of students enrolled in Fine Arts are well above the national average of those who are not enrolled in the arts. <https://www.tmea.org/programs/all-state/average-sat>

Students must have at least one year of fine arts under any graduation plan. Beyond that, every additional year counts toward the required number of electives. Colleges and universities are interested in students who have who have shown the commitment and dedication to be in an organization, such as band, for multiple years. We are aware that it seems like a huge decision, but we ask that you please consider participation in band in 9th grade and make a more informed decision as to whether to continue or not. Many students find the experience to be life changing, in a good way. If you are having difficulty fitting band into your child's four-year plan, or believe that it is simply too difficult with the advanced degree programs, please contact us before you make your final decision. We have students involved in almost every aspect of student activity at Cinco Ranch High School. We will do our best to alleviate any situation that does not allow a student to stay in band.

Please feel free to email a director at any time with any questions. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and we truly hope you'll join the Cougar Band family!

For even more info please visit the band website: <https://cincoranchcougarband.com/>

Sincerely,

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How much time does band require?

We know that the summer band and fall schedule can look intimidating, especially with very busy schedules and a lot of homework. We respect your time and try to keep rehearsals to an absolute minimum. We front load the curriculum in August so that once school begins, students have time to participate in band and maintain their academic responsibilities. Please recognize that with all of your hard work you receive elective, fine arts, and P.E. credit. Marching band usually lasts until the second week of November; after school responsibilities for the Cougar Band begin to diminish the last week of October, depending on Football and TMEA activities. During marching season we rehearse after school, no more than a combined 8 hours per week. UIL mandates starting the 1st day of school, marching bands are not allowed to practice more than 8 hours a week. The exception is on contest or performance days, you are allowed an extra hour of practice on those days. Due to the time commitment marching band, sectionals will not begin until the spring semester (Wind Ensemble and Symphonic band are the only bands that have sectionals).

How are students placed in the 4 bands at Cinco Ranch?

All placements are based on a combination of an audition and recommendations from your current director. In April, all students wishing to participate in the Cinco Ranch Band next year, will perform an audition. Evaluation of the audition, along with information on various aspects of a student's past performance received from the current director, determine a student's placement. Our goal is to make sure every student is in the right place for him or her to learn and grow as a musician. Audition information will be given to all middle schools before spring break. We also re-audition all students in November for the following spring semester. Those fall auditions are on the All-Region music.

Do I have to do marching band?

Yes. KISD states that any student who participates in band in high school, must participate in marching band as well. The positive is, you take care of your PE Credit through marching band. Marching Band is "the great unknown" for many 8th grade students and parents, but it actually ends up being the favorite part of the school year for the majority of our students. We will have an introductory 3 day marching camp for all 8th graders at the end of this semester.

Similarly to many other successful organizations, we work hard in band at Cinco Ranch, but we also have a lot of fun. If you do what is expected, practice, and follow the classroom expectations, you will be surprised what you can accomplish. Most students in the Cinco Ranch Band maintain an A average. Students will receive PE and Fine Arts credit both freshmen and sophomore years, then you have the option to GPA exempt your junior and senior year.



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FAQ cont'd

Can I be in band and other activities such as athletics?

Yes. The positive relationship between the fine arts programs and the athletic department is something that we value greatly. There has never been a situation that we have not been able to work out between programs. With the academic and activity schedules we recognize that it can be difficult to participate in as many events as students would like. Our philosophy in the band program is to provide as many opportunities as possible for students.

Should I be afraid of marching band?

Marching Band is a new and exciting opportunity. You will have plenty of chances to acquire all the skills necessary to thoroughly enjoy your experience in marching band. Did you ever imagine that you would be this great a musician after your first week in beginning band class?

Am I good enough to be in high school band?

Absolutely! You have participated in a fantastic middle school program that has equipped you with all of the necessary skills to be in the high school band.

What if I can't memorize music?

Think through the Bb concert scale. Do you have that memorized? How did you do that? Exactly, through repetition. You will have more than enough time in concert band and marching band to memorize the music.

Is there a cost to be in band?

While there is a cost to be in band we work to keep our band fees as low as we can. There are specific apparel items that must be purchased once and used throughout the 4 year band experience. There is a mandatory "fair share" that each student pays annually. Additionally, the Cinco Ranch Band has multiple fundraisers throughout the school year to help offset the cost to our families. We try to incorporate a few larger fundraisers both in the fall and spring, followed up with several smaller ones. One of our largest fundraisers in the fall semester is our Mum room.

If you have any further questions, feel free to call or email us.

Cinco Ranch Band Staff

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