

Cinco Ranch High School Band

23440 Cinco Ranch Blvd ~ Katy, Texas 77494

Phone (281) 237-5046 ~ Fax (281) 644-1738 ~ rayhjones@katyisd.org ~ www.cincoranchcougarband.com

Ray Jones, Director ~ Rory Davis and Danny Rivera, Associate Directors

2021-2022 Freshman

I would like to welcome everyone that has decided to be a part of the CRHS Cougar Band family for the 2021-2022 school year. We are preparing a very exciting show for next year and would like to get you started as early as possible so you can be ready for the fall. If you are undecided about being part of our family I encourage you try out all of the activities we have before the school year starts to decide if this is for you.

The purpose of freshman marching camp is to briefly touch on all the skills you will need to be a member of the Cougar Band. If you learn the basics and then practice over the summer you will be well prepared for fall marching season.

We look forward to a very exciting upcoming year with over 250 members, an exciting new show, many new instruments and an awesome booster group that takes care of all of our needs.

Freshman Marching Camp is mandatory for all potential band members. Please notify me at rayhjones@katyisd.org or call me at the high school band hall (281) 237-5046 if you have any conflicts. It is very important that you communicate with me at all times about any questions or concerns.

- **Freshman Marching Camp** will be held April 28-29 from 6:00-8:00 PM. We will have a mandatory freshman parent Zoom meeting on Thursday, April 29th at 6:30-7:30 PM. One parent please attend so that we may answer any questions and introduce you to the wonderful world of high school band.
 - **Bring a full jug of water**
 - **Wear comfortable clothing, such as shorts and white or grey t-shirt.**
 - **Please wear tennis shoes, NO SANDALS or open toed shoes!**
 - **Instrument**
 - **Parent Zoom:** <https://katyisd-org.zoom.us/j/5064465040>
Meeting ID: 506 446 5040
Passcode: CRHSBAND
- **Percussion mini camps** – this is where Mr. Rivera will go over the percussion audition music
 - **May 3rd, 5th, and 6th from 5:00-6:30**
The audition will be submitted by video. Mr. Rivera will gives details at the camps
- **Summer Marching Camp** see attached calendar

Remember **Freshman Marching Camp** is mandatory in order to learn all marching fundamentals and meet your directors and student leaders.

All KISD band students will need a physical. This is the same physical form for KISD athletics so you will be able to take advantage of the screenings offered at a KISD campus. Physical screening at a KISD campus will cost \$25. Cinco Ranch HS will have a physical screening on May 16th starting at 5:30 PM. KISD has not published the rest of the physical screening calendar yet, when it comes out I will get it to your JH band directors. You may use your family Doctor for the physical, but must use the KISD physical form. This physical must be completed by July 30, 2021.

For more information and to see what we are about you can check out our webpage at <https://cincoranchcougarband.com/>

We welcome you to our family.

Ray Jones, Rory Davis and Danny Rivera
Directors
Cinco Ranch Cougar Band

July/August

Cinco Ranch HS Band Summer Calendar

2021

All calendar events subject to change

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
July 18	19 All Percussion 9AM-5PM	20 All Percussion 9AM-5PM	21 All Percussion 9AM-5PM	22 All Percussion 9AM-5PM	23	24
25	26	27	28	29 All Band Students 7AM-4PM	30 All Band Students 7AM-4PM	31
August 1	2 All Band Students 7AM-4PM	3 All Band Students 7AM-4PM	4 All Band Students 7AM-4PM	5 All Band Students 7AM-4PM	6 All Band Students 4PM-8PM	7 Money Day 9:00AM-1:00PM
8	9 All Band Students 4PM-8PM	10 All Band Students 4PM-8PM	11 All Band Students 4PM-8PM	12 All Band Students 4PM-8PM	13 All Band Students 4PM-8PM	14
15	16 All Band Students 4PM-8PM	17 All Band Students 7PM-11PM	18 First Day of School			
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

The marching rehearsal schedule for afterschool will be released once we have the football schedule

Front Ensemble Techniques

Front Ensemble Approach & Exercises

Danny Rivera

What is the front ensemble? The front ensemble (or pit) has evolved into a world of its own, encompassing virtually every aspect of percussion. From traditional concert keyboards and accessories to ethnic and world percussion and electronics, the possibilities are endless. The front ensemble is an integral part of the musical presentation, providing impact with the large drums, cymbals and gongs; color through the accessory instruments and electronics, and melodic and counter melodic lines with the keyboards.

The front ensemble also provides an opportunity to develop well rounded percussionists. The students can be exposed to a variety of techniques and instruments that they may otherwise never encounter. In addition, the front ensemble provides students such as oboe and bassoon players to participate in marching band and/or show off any piano skills that many have. (Oboes and bassoons are not used in marching band).

Ensemble cohesiveness between the front ensemble, wind players and battery section is one of the more difficult issues encountered when performing in a marching band. Several problems can be fixed by "listening back" to the battery ensemble if they are midfield or closer. In some situations, the battery ensemble may be too far back and cannot be heard. In these situations, the front ensemble members should listen to the wind players. **NEVER WATCH THE DRUM MAJOR!** Only a few instances will that rule be broken!!

Keyboard Technique Guidelines

Posture! A great musical performance begins with great posture. Before you play a note, your audience and judges will make conscious and unconscious judgments of you based on the way you look behind your instrument. Our goal is to convey a sense of maturity and professionalism. Performers should make a noticeable impression on the viewer/listener by projecting confidence and dignity. Here are a few things to do to being creating that great musical performance....

- Stand with your feet shoulder width apart.
- Stand as tall as possible, imagining a string pulling you up from the top of your head.
- Imagine a straight line extending from your ears to your shoulders to your hips to your heels.
- Your upper body should be upright, rather than hunched over the instrument.
- Shoulders should be slightly back (although not tense) opening up the chest and creating a “big look” to your stance and body carriage.
- Keep your head up and look down at the keyboard through your nose.
- Upper arms should stay relaxed and “hang” down from the shoulders without tension.
- Although the distance between your body and the keyboard will vary based on the musical passage, in general you should stand in such a way that moving between upper and lower manuals is easy and fluid. We will move our body into the best position to play the passage versus leaning or reaching unnecessarily. This especially applies to 4 mallet passages.
- As you shift to various body positions while moving around the instrument, it is often helpful to place one foot slightly in front of the other and shift your weight as needed.

2 mallet vs. 4 mallet playing

Two mallet technique is very similar to the matched grip the battery uses. Both hands are exactly the same, with the top of your hand facing straight up, and NO GAP in between the thumb and the stick. Approach to the instrument should be straight up and down, making sure not to slice out in either direction. As you move up and down the instrument, your position behind it should follow your motion on the instrument, so that you are never reaching far to play your notes.

Four mallet technique can be tricky at times. We use what’s called the Stevens grip for all four mallet parts. When practicing Stevens grip, you want to make sure to practice moving them together, as well as individually. Individual movement should come by rotating the wrist only and not from the arms. Approach is the same as matched when playing chords.

Setting up for 4 mallet grip (Stevens Grip)

Setting up for 4 mallet playing can vary slightly from teacher to teacher, but these are the guidelines that we use with the front ensemble at Cinco Ranch High School.

Inside Mallet:

- The hand is in a “handshaking” position, with the thumb pointed up.
- The base of the inside mallet rests on the “lifeline” under the meaty base of the thumb.
- The index finger creates a “table top,” where the inside mallet rests on the first knuckle.
- The inside mallet is balanced between the base of the thumb (towards the center of the palm) and the curled-in index finger. This cantilever effect holds the mallet in place without tension.
- With minimal tension, the middle finger secures the base of the inside mallet in the palm. The middle finger should not dig the mallet forcefully into the palm. The middle finger will generally connect with the mallet slightly above the tip of the mallet shaft...this will minimize tension. Much of this depends on hand size and finger length of the performer. Remember that the inside mallet “hangs” in the hand and is steered by the middle finger but not held in place by the middle finger.
- The thumb rests lightly on top, keeping the mallet from rolling side to side.

Outside Mallet:

- The outside mallet is gripped with the ring finger and pinky – these fingers curl back into the palm of the hand.
- The back two fingers are kept firm enough so that the outside mallet does not droop down.
- No more than a half-inch of the outside mallet extends beyond the back of the pinky.

CINCO RANCH HS DRUMLINE AUDITION INFORMATION

HERE ARE THE TEMPOS AND EXERCISE FOR DRUMLINE AUDITIONS FOR BATTERY AND FRONT ENSEMBLE. THE METRONOME MUST BE AUDIBLE. IF YOU ARE AUDITIONING FOR BATTERY, YOU MUST MARK TIME!

BATTERY:

- REBOUND (QUARTER NOTE=120)
- DBL (DOTTED QUARTER NOTE=130)
- PDD (DOTTED QUARTER NOTE=90)
- TRIP DIDZ (DOTTED QUARTER NOTE=150)
- ACCENT TAP (QUARTER NOTE=124/EIGHTH NOTE=248)
- 16TH NOTE TIMING (3 NOTE) (QUARTER NOTE=124)
- CHICKEN AND A ROLL (QUARTER NOTE=124)
- BASS DRUM AUDITION ETUDE (ONLY PLAY IF YOU WANT TO AUDITION FOR BASS DRUM) (QUARTER NOTE=104)

FRONT ENSEMBLE:

- 5-3-2-1 (EIGHTH NOTE=200)
- GREEN (KEYS OF C, F, Bb, Eb AND Ab) (QUARTER NOTE=90)
- CHROMATIC 5TH'S IN EIGHT NOTES (QUARTER NOTE=90)
- LATERAL STROKES (DOTTED QUARTER NOTE=60)

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT ME AT: danielrivera@katyisd.org

5-3-2-1

Four staves of musical notation for a 5-3-2-1 exercise. The first staff is in 3/8 time and features a sequence of chords: C major, D major, E major, F major, G major, A major, B major, and C major. The second staff continues with D major, E major, F major, G major, A major, B major, and C major. The third staff continues with D major, E major, F major, G major, A major, B major, and C major. The fourth staff continues with D major, E major, F major, G major, A major, B major, and C major.

GREEN (PLAY IN ALL 12 MAJOR KEYS)

Two staves of musical notation for the 'GREEN' exercise. The first staff is in 4/4 time and features a sequence of chords: C major, D major, E major, F major, G major, A major, B major, and C major. The second staff continues with D major, E major, F major, G major, A major, B major, and C major.

DIRT

Four staves of musical notation for the 'DIRT' exercise. The first staff is in 4/4 time and features a sequence of chords: C major, D major, E major, F major, G major, A major, B major, and C major. The second staff continues with D major, E major, F major, G major, A major, B major, and C major. The third staff continues with D major, E major, F major, G major, A major, B major, and C major. The fourth staff continues with D major, E major, F major, G major, A major, B major, and C major.

98 CHROMATIC 5THS (ASCENDING AND DESCENDING)

-BLOCK CHORDS
-LEFT HAND THEN RIGHT HAND

-VARIATIONS: 1234, 4321, 3241, 2314,
1324, 2413, 1423, 4132

PIVOTS

-RIGHT HAND ONLY (MALLETS 3 & 4)
-LEFT HAND ONLY (MALLETS 1 & 2)

1-3-5

-RIGHT HAND ONLY (MALLETS 3 & 4)
-LEFT HAND ONLY (MALLETS 1 & 2)

LATERAL STROKES

4 3 2 4 3 2 4 3 2 4 3 2 3 2 1 3 2 1 3 2 1

ETC....

CHROMATICS (DONE WITH BATTERY EXERCISE: TRIPLET ROLLS)

The musical score consists of five staves of music in treble clef, 12/8 time signature. The first four staves contain a continuous sequence of chromatic eighth notes, with the first two staves featuring triplet rolls. The fifth staff begins with a measure number '50' and contains a sequence of eighth notes followed by a final measure with a double bar line and a fermata.

Cinco Ranch High School Percussion

Required Supplies for 9th-12th Grades

These are the required percussion supplies for high school percussionists in the Concert Bands as well as the Percussion Ensembles at Cinco Ranch High School during the spring semester. They are used to play the various instruments in the percussion section. A separate list for marching band is available.

Most students should already have some of these supplies from junior high and/or years in high school band. You do not need to go out and purchase all of the supplies right now. You may choose to purchase them throughout the next several months. You can visit local music stores or order the supplies online; just be sure you obtain the correct brand/model.

Stick Bag (1)

- Choose **ONE** of the following or something comparable. Your bag must be able to hold 12-15 pairs of sticks and mallets. If you have something different, show me what you have.
 - Salyers SMB
 - VFCSB
 - Innovative MB-1

Snare Drum Sticks (1-2 pair)

- Choose **ONE** of the following. Have at least one pair, but two pair are strongly suggested. Use one pair exclusively for auditions/performances. It's suggested to get the same brand for performances and rehearsals just because the different brands vary slightly in weight, length, feel, etc.
 - Salyers PCS 1
 - Vic Firth SD 1 General
 - Innovative IP-LD (Lalo Davila)

Bells (1 pair)

- Choose **ONE** of the following:
 - Salyers PCX 3 (clear)
 - Salyers PCX 4 (black)
 - Innovative OS4 (white)

Xylophone (2 pairs)

- Choose **ONE** of the following:
 - Salyers PCX 11 (red)
 - Malletech BB34 Becker Blues (blue)
- **ALSO** choose **ONE** of the following:
 - Mike Balter Model 5B (dark green)
 - Salyers PCX 42 (black)