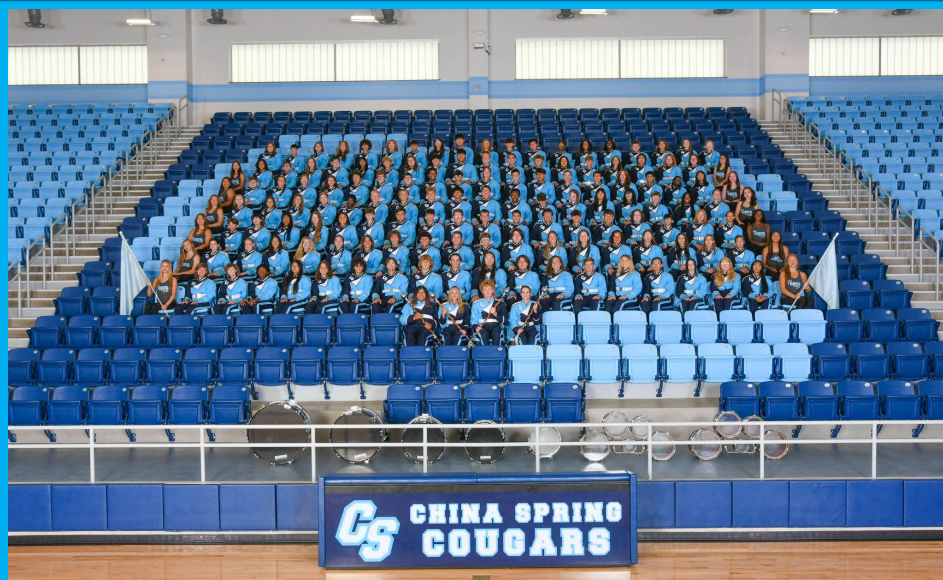


China Spring Cougar Band Handbook



China Spring Cougar Band
China Spring ISD
2026-2027

Directors

Adam Mothersole
Sam Silver
Tami Morgan
Cole Alex
Ian Mitchell

www.cscougarband.com

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	2
WHERE TO GET INFORMATION.....	3
WELCOME.....	4
PURPOSE / MEMBERSHIP.....	4
CHINA SPRING ISD STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT / POLICIES.....	4
WEBSITE.....	4
CONTACT INFORMATION.....	5
BAND BOOSTERS.....	5
EXPECTATIONS.....	6
INDIVIDUAL OPPORTUNITIES.....	7
ATTENDANCE.....	7
DISCIPLINARY ACTION.....	8
GRADING PROCEDURES.....	8
CELLPHONES.....	9
ELIGIBILITY.....	9
INSTRUMENTS (SCHOOL OWNED & PERSONAL).....	9
SUPPLIES.....	10
UNIFORMS.....	11
TRIPS & TRAVEL.....	12
STUDENT LEADERSHIP.....	12
MARCHING BAND.....	13
WIND ENSEMBLE.....	14
SYMPHONIC BAND.....	14
CONCERT BAND.....	14
JAZZ BAND.....	14
CHALLENGES.....	15
PEP BAND.....	15
AWARDS.....	15
FUNDRAISERS.....	15
BAND LETTER JACKET POLICY.....	15
ALL-REGION BAND PROCESS.....	15
UIL SOLO & ENSEMBLE CONTEST.....	16
BAND CAMPS.....	16
BAND BOOSTERS.....	16
PRIVATE LESSONS.....	16
STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE.....	18

WHERE TO GET INFORMATION

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/cscougarband/>

Instagram: @cscougarband

Website www.cscougarband.com

Make sure you have an accurate email address in your cuttime account:

www.gocuttime.com

Join our [BAND APP](#)

WELCOME

Welcome members of the China Spring Cougar Band! We look forward to having a great year as we strive to take pride in ourselves by continuing to set and reach incredible goals! Music and the performing arts connect students with their culture through a common language crossing generational and social barriers. The activities that a student pursues influences the type of person he or she becomes. The experience that comes with participation in a performing arts organization builds discipline, character, pride, and self-confidence at a crucial age and forms the springboard to even more significant achievements in adulthood. Band is a performing arts class that requires much hard work and preparation throughout the ENTIRE year, but we believe that it is one of the most rewarding and fun organizations in which you can be involved. We look forward to working with each of you this year and want to remind you; never hesitate to talk to us if at any time you have any concerns, problems, need help, etc. Good luck to all this year!

PURPOSE / MEMBERSHIP

The China Spring High School band exists to educate students by using music as a vehicle to teach discipline, honor, respect, loyalty, timeliness, self-expression, self-respect, excellence, and many other soft skills students will use for the rest of their lives. All while teaching the fundamentals of music from the analytical to the artistic. Science has shown that students with an early introduction to a rigorous music program tend to become better contributors to society and are the "creative problem solvers" that so many 21st century employers desire to hire. Finally, our purpose to perform great music at a high level for the sake of playing great music in its intended form. So often we downplay the importance of the "art" of music. Music is an art form designed to be enjoyed by the audience and the performer.

CHINA SPRING ISD STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT / POLICIES

All expectations and regulations outlined in the China Spring ISD Student Handbook and Student Code of Conduct must be followed and supersede all expectations set in this band handbook. Students are to follow all rules and policies established in the handbook at all band practices as well as when traveling off campus with the band for a competition or other music-related event sponsored by China Spring ISD. A copy of the China Spring ISD Code of Conduct and handbook is available at:

<https://high.chinaspringisd.net/o/cshs/documents/students/student-handbook-%26-dress-code/403279>

WEBSITE

Parents and students are encouraged to regularly visit the China Spring ISD Website found at <http://www.chinaspringisd.net>. Parents and students are also encouraged to keep their email addresses updated with the band directors (through Charms or our CS Cougar band Email list) as frequent announcements are communicated via email. Additionally, all band information is made available at www.cscougarband.com.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Mailing Address:

China Spring High School
7301 N River Xing
China Spring, TX 76633
FAX: 254.836.0059

Director of Bands
Adam Mothersole
amothersole@chinaspringisd.net
Office: 254.836.1771

Assistant High School
Sam Silver
ssilver@chinaspringisd.net
Office: 254.836.1771

Head Middle School Director
Cole Alex
callex@chinaspringisd.net
Office: 254.836.4611

Assistant High School/Percussion
Director
Tami Morgan
tbott@chinaspringisd.net
Office: 254.836.1771

Assistant Middle School
Ian Mitchell
imitchell@chinaspringisd.net
Office: 254.836.4611

BAND BOOSTERS

President – Stephanie Petty
Vice President – Courtney Guerrieri
Secretary – Becky Antunes
Parent Involvement – Angela Rand
Finance – Crystell Billman
Trailer Manager – Cory Viertel

EXPECTATIONS

1. Always TRY!! You can control your EFFORT. We will coach up your skill set; you take care of your EFFORT to attain the skills.
2. Maintain a positive attitude and believe in yourself. Take PRIDE in what you do! Excellence in EVERYTHING.
3. Strive for your best in every practice and every performance.
 - Be musically prepared!
 - Take your instrument home for additional practice.
 - Get private lessons if possible.
 - Ask your band director for help!
4. Set reachable yet challenging goals.
5. Create a consistently disciplined environment.
(Mouths closed, and ears opened!)
6. Respect each other. We must all work TOGETHER to reach the same goal.
7. Respect and take care of all property.
 - Take care of your instrument.
 - Take care of school and other students' instruments.
 - Take care of band hall and help keep clean!
 - No food or drinks outside of the large band hall.
 - No chewing gum during rehearsals.
8. Attend ALL practices EARLY. *Early is on time, on time is late, and late is unacceptable.*
9. Attend ALL practices and performances with all required equipment. This includes instrument, pencils, music, uniform, etc.
10. Represent China Spring ISD and the Cougar Band in the most positive manner possible. Inappropriate and disrespectful behavior toward anyone will not be tolerated.
11. Cell phones may be used as tuner or UDB (using an app) ONLY during after school practices. Afterwards they are to be put away and remain out of sight of the student and the director. Cell phones should be turned off or place on silent (I do not want to hear the phone vibrating during rehearsal). Directors will give one warning about cellphones then they will be taken up. During class you must use an actual tuner and cord.

Attitude: The attitude you bring to and develop in the China Spring Cougar Band is critical. We are an organization 160+ strong, not a specific section or individual. We are all working hard and dedicating ourselves to a common goal. To achieve that end, we must all have the same positive approach. There are many high-quality groups around the country for us to enjoy and respect. One of the most rewarding experiences in this activity is getting to know others and watching them work as hard as we do. We learn from and applaud their efforts and achievements. The Cougar Band organization is a family. You will make friendships in these years that will continue long into the future. Do not overreact to things over which you do not have any control. Concern yourself with your own efforts. Many memories are waiting for you, don't cheat yourself out of them.

Enjoy the good times and learn from the hard times.

ATTENDANCE

CLASSROOM ATTENDANCE

Students are expected to be ready for class when the regularly scheduled tardy bell rings or when class/practice is scheduled to begin per band director instructions. Students are expected to be in the band hall or on the band practice field (during marching season) when the tardy bell rings (a two-minute buffer is given for those traveling from extreme ends of the school). Students who are not in their seats or position with their proper equipment at this time are not ready for class and are considered tardy. Please note CSHS tardy policy in the student handbook. Students will receive only ONE warning for being tardy.

REHEARSAL/PERFORMANCE ATTENDANCE

All students enrolled in band are required to attend all rehearsals and performances unless previous arrangements have been made with the band directors. Events included, but not limited to are all of summer band, after school rehearsals, pep rallies, and all activities for which the band is performing (please refer to the band calendar).

Work schedules should be adjusted ahead of time. Any employer of high school students understands that there are school responsibilities that must be accommodated. Be honest with your employer about your school responsibilities in the beginning, and they are more likely to help you when you need them. Our schedule is established enough in advance for arrangements to be made. Summer band schedule is published in March once the district calendar is finalized to allow time for planning. Please respect our time together. We try to keep practice times down to a minimum for everyone's convenience; therefore, each minute we have together is crucial for our development.

The word we try to follow to help understand whether the absence is excused or not is the word "unavoidable". The reason for the absence needs to be considered unavoidable and falls under the blanket of improving the student's health, as well as unexpected emergencies. Some examples of excused absences are: crucial doctor's appointments, family emergencies, an unexpected illness, etc. An unexcused absence is something that can be avoided and/or is something that does not constitute a significant reason to miss rehearsal. An example is missing for work, hanging out with friends, any recreational appointments, etc.

We do understand that sometimes circumstances arise. We will handle these on a case by case basis, and our decision will be final. One week's notice is needed BEFORE a missed marching rehearsal/performance so that we can have time to plan out accordingly. Any item not cleared ahead of time will be considered an unexcused absence.

Consequences for Unexcused Rehearsal Absence

1. Directors will try to exercise discretion for each individual situation and render appropriate consequences (making up the rehearsal, practice time, lowering of their participation grade etc...) However, we do reserve the right to remove the student from the marching block for performances. During this time, they are to attend and serve in nonperformance roles and marching with the non-varsity block. They can earn a place back in the Varsity block at the directors discretion when a spot becomes available.
2. Spring rehearsals will be handled by the respective band directors. Consequences may include suspension from parts, lowering of participation grade, or removal from the band program.

Consequences for Unexcused Performance Absence

1. Parent/student notification, removal from the marching block, and lowering of the student's participation grade.
2. The student will potentially be removed from the band program.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION

Failure to follow the expectations listed above will result in disciplinary action. Offenses will be handled in the following manner:

Minor Offenses: *(Talking, No Supplies, Disrupting Class, Tardy, Failure to Complete Assignments, Food, Drinks, or Gum etc.)*

First Offense: Verbal Warning

Repeated Offenses: (consequence chosen at director's discretion) Behavioral contract, Parent Conference, lowering of their participation grade, removal from the marching block, service project, etc...

Habitual offenses could lead to student being removed from the performing ensemble (marching block) and/or being referred to the office.

Major Offenses: *(Fighting, Property Destruction/Vandalism*, Alcohol / Drugs, etc.)*

All major offenses will be immediately referred to the office. A parent / teacher conference will also be scheduled.

**If property destruction occurs (especially to band property), the student will be expected to pay for any costs of repair and/or replacement. Said student will also face removal from the Band program.*

GRADING PROCEDURES

Students will receive a grade for participating in band class. The six weeks grading structure will be set up in the following manner.

Daily Grades = 50 %

Daily grades will consist of a grade given for every rehearsal before, during, or after school. Students will start with a grade of "100" and will lose points based on lack of preparation, lack of practice, poor performance, lack of necessary supplies, poor behavior, missed pass-offs, and tardiness. Participation grades are affected by the students pass off grade if they miss the pass-off deadline (but can make it up during the cycle in question). A student will receive a "0" for unexcused absences.

Test Grades = 50%

Test grades will occur in band, although they may not involve a traditional testing environment. During the first semester, test grades will be given for every football game, and marching performance attended. A student will receive a grade of "100" unless they lose points based on lack of preparation, lack of practice, poor performance, lack of needed supplies, poor behavior, missed pass-offs, or failure to attend the game or competition at the scheduled time. Failure to attend a game or performance without prior notification to and approval from the band director will result in a test grade of "0". It is at the band director's sole discretion to allow a student to be excused from a test grade situation or to allow the student to make up the grade.

Students will also receive test grades throughout the year by being asked to pass off portions of their music. During the fall, students will receive test grades based on passing off their marching band music by memory. Students will be given a minimum of three weeks to plan for this event and will be given a strict deadline. Failure to pass off the music on time will result in the loss of 10 points per week for every participation grade for the cycle. Failure to pass off the marching music by memory within the set schedule will also result in the student losing their spot on the marching field. During the spring semester, students will be required to pass off excerpts of their concert music. This music is not expected to be memorized, but the grading procedures will still meet the same expectations as listed above.

CELLPHONES

Cellphones communication are not allowed in rehearsals. Students who have them out in an unauthorized fashion will have them confiscated and can pick them up at the conclusion of the rehearsal. In the event a student is using their phone for tuning/metronome/Ultimate Drill Book purposes it will be allowed (no other apps should be open). Non-Phone tuners and metronomes are provided. Repeated offenses will fall under minor offenses under disciplinary action.

ELIGIBILITY

Being a part of a large organization, such as the Cougar Band, requires a great deal of individual responsibility for the group to be successful. Each student will be responsible for taking care of his/her equipment and uniform. It is the student's responsibility to make sure that he/she is abiding by all rules and regulations of this band manual to make our program as productive as possible.

It is also the responsibility of each student to maintain their grades in ALL classes. Academic achievement is the primary goal of a public-school education. We have traditionally had a very low rate of ineligibility due to failure in the classroom. We will continue to work with students and teachers to maintain adequate academic progress.

The band program abides by and supports the UIL/TEA No Pass No Play rules. If a student does not maintain passing grades, they cannot fully participate in the band program.

For further information regarding UIL eligibility, you may visit the UIL website at www UIL.utexas.edu.

INSTRUMENTS (SCHOOL OWNED & PERSONAL)

Students are expected to take extreme care of all instruments whether the instrument belongs to a student or China Spring ISD.

Students bringing personally owned instruments to school are expected to keep the instrument in good playing condition and will be responsible for any repairs needed. Students of these instruments are required to furnish their supplies and keep these supplies with them at all times: mouthpieces, reeds, cork grease, valve oil, slide oil, polishing cloths, drumsticks, etc.

Many students will have the opportunity to use a school-owned instrument. Such instruments include low woodwinds, french horns, trombones, euphoniums, tubas, and percussion. China Spring ISD will be responsible for repairing all damages to the instrument due to normal aging or wear and tear. Once a school instrument has been issued to a student, the student becomes responsible for the instrument. If the instrument becomes lost or stolen, the student will be responsible for replacing the instrument.

SUPPLIES

Students are expected to have all required supplies with them at every practice, game, and performance. The student must purchase these supplies. Many of the uniform supplies are "one-time" purchases that will last each student their entire high school band career. Below is a list of supplies needed:

Uniform: Black Marching Shoes (kept polished and clean) - \$60
Black Socks (long) - cost varies (\$5.00 per pair if bought from us)
White Band T-Shirt - \$15.00

Marching: Flip folder
Lyre
Pencil
Cougar Band Water Jug - \$20 (you get your first one free)
Tennis Shoes
Band Shoulder Bag \$12
Coordinate Card/UDB App

Woodwinds: A minimum of 3 reeds in good, playing condition
Cork grease
Polishing cloth

Brass: Valve Oil
Slide Oil
Polishing Cloth
Wire Snake
Mouthpiece Cleaner

Percussion: Proper sticks / supplies for drum line instrument.

Concert Season: Formal Uniform Cleaning Fee - \$8.00 or receipt for dress or tux cleaning
Uniform replacement costs for lost or damaged uniforms (if marching or formal uniform part is lost)

Optional Costs:
Solo/ensemble \$15.00 per event (if student signs up and does not participate)
ATSSB Audition \$15.00 (if student signs up and does not participate)
TMEA Audition \$20.00 (if student signs up and does not participate)
Jazz Audition \$25.00 (if student signs up and does not participate)
Method books, Solo/Ensemble Music, etc.

UNIFORMS

During marching season, each student will be issued a uniform. The uniform will have been cleaned before the start of the year and will consist of black pants, a jacket, and a hat. Students will be shown the proper way to wear the uniform, and when instructed to do so, students will be required to wear the uniform as demonstrated at football games, marching contests, or other scheduled performances. When dressed in full uniform, no jewelry, watches, or earrings are to be worn. All hair longer than the collar of the band jacket will need to be tucked in the hat. The uniform, once issued, is to be kept in the best condition by the student. Neglecting to store the uniform properly can result in costly damages to the uniform.

The uniform parts provided by the school include:

1. Coat (with buckle)
2. Pants (with suspenders)
3. Uniform Hat (with box)
4. Show Uniform

The uniform parts you will provide:

1. Black Marching Shoes – we suggest you order a pair of marching shoes through us, any other shoe must be approved by the directors.
2. Black Socks – (mid-calf to knee high length) to be worn whenever the black shoes are worn.
3. Official Cougar Band T-Shirt – worn under the uniform coat and used as part of the summer uniform
4. Athletic shorts (CS Cougar Band Shorts are approved) – Worn under the uniform pants to prevent overheating.
5. Band Hat – only approved head wear in the stands.
6. Tennis Shoes – only other shoe besides the black marching shoe to be worn during marching rehearsals. (NO FLIP FLOPS OR SANDALS)
7. Rain Poncho (purchased from Band)
8. Compression Shorts for under the show uniform.

Proper Wearing of the Friday Night Uniform

Proper wearing of our uniform is a subject that will continuously be emphasized. Pride in performance starts with the wearing of the uniform. There will be a uniform inspection before football games and performances. If uniform appearance does not meet our expectations the student's participation grade will be lowered. Pants are always worn with suspenders up, and coats are fully zipped if worn. The white band T-shirt is to be worn under the uniform so that we may take off our jackets during warm weather games and remain uniform. Only official Cougar Band Baseball Hats can be worn in the stands. Shoes are to be cleaned and polished. Black mid-calf to knee-high socks (NO ankle length socks) must be worn with the uniform. No jewelry may be worn with the uniform. Girls may wear "light" make-up as judged by the band director. Girls' hair must be up and off the shoulders of the uniform. Hair fasteners should preferably be dark blue or black, and no large bows should be worn while in uniform.

Warm Weather Uniform

Our warm weather uniform will consist of the official band shirt, athletic black shorts, uniform pants, black socks, and black shoes. No jacket will be worn during the warm weather games (including the performance).

Consequences for Being Out of Uniform

Students will be checked for proper uniform wear before each game and performance. If the student doesn't comply with the guidelines listed above, they will receive a reduction in their performance grade for the event. If the problem continues, the student will be removed from the performance block with the opportunity to earn their position back. During the spring, the student's participation grade will be lowered for any infraction of uniform dress and the student may be suspended from the performance. The severity of the violation will be taken into consideration.

TRIPS & TRAVEL

The CSHS Band will travel many times throughout the year to various contests and football games as is the requirement of being a member of the band. China Spring ISD will provide transportation to all band activities taking place outside of China Spring ISD. Students are required to ride the school bus to and from all official band/school related functions. In certain circumstances, students will be permitted to ride home with their parents if prior arrangements have been made and approved by the directors.

We will be traveling on school buses for the sole purpose of transport to and from an event. It is not for entertainment. The following rules will be followed any time we are on a bus:

1. Show respect for the bus driver and all chaperones.
2. Follow instructions of drum majors and directors.
3. Be completely quiet during roll call.
4. No distracting activities are allowed.
5. Remain in your seat. Don't be walking around.
6. No public display of affection.
7. No hairspray, perfume, or other noxious gases are to be sprayed on the bus.
8. Absolutely nothing is to go out of a window, including body parts or objects.
9. Keep the bus clean. The goal is to leave it better than you found it.

All students are required to ride the bus to an event. Exceptions will be made only for students involved in other school-related activities. Students are expected and encouraged to ride the bus home (the job isn't done until we have unloaded into the band hall). If there is an unusual circumstance, it will be at the discretion of the directors to approve a student's return travel outside of the bus. Students then may only ride home with their parent or other adult designated by the parent. They will not be allowed to ride with other students. This rule is for the student's protection and a liability issue for the school district. We must be able to account for the student's whereabouts until they are released to parents.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

The Cougar band would not be successful without the help of its student leaders. Students with highly developed leadership qualities may choose to audition for one of the student leadership positions. Audition requirements and procedures have been listed below. Student leaders are expected to be helpful, positive influences on all band members as they are role models for everyone. They are expected to attend a leadership camp during July before summer band activities begin. While students in these positions see much of their work taking place in the fall, the leadership opportunities last all year (principal performers in each section will be named for the concert band after concert band auditions). Failure for a student leader to fulfill these duties will result in the removal from their position.

Drum Major - Student leaders that are chosen through an audition at the end of the year prior to service. The student must have been in the High School band for at least one year. Duties include directing the band on the field and in the stands, assisting the directors during marching rehearsals, games, and class time, and are a public representation of the China Spring Cougar Band.

Section Leader - Leaders that are chosen by the directors through an application process at the end of the year prior to service. The students must have been in the High School band for at least one year. Duties include teaching marching fundamentals, assisting the band directors in rehearsal and at games, minor administrative duties, and overall morale building.

Principal Performers (Concert Band Only) - Performers chosen after spring band auditions to lead their sections in concert band. Chosen by directors based on past performance and concert band placement.

Band Logistics Team - Students assigned by the directors to help with various tasks during marching season. The students will be a crucial assistant for the directors. Some duties include assisting in taking attendance, handing out and collecting check-off sheets on Friday nights, filing forms, making copies, etc. The uniform and equipment team fall under the logistics team and led by the Band Manager.

Equipment Manager/Team - Student assigned by the band director to coordinate responsibilities with the "Roadies" for the transportation of our band equipment, ensuring all of our equipment is loaded and in proper working order. There will be a team assign to these managers who all will help with set up and tear down during rehearsals throughout the year.

Equipment Interns - An honored position usually given to younger students who desire to one day serve in leadership who are responsible for helping with equipment team before and after each rehearsal and each performance.

Band Office Aid - Student must be signed up through the office as an office aid and have the approval of the directors to be the band aid.

MARCHING BAND

The Marching Band is the largest and most visible of the performing ensembles at China Spring. We are known throughout our community for our dedication to excellence and support of our community at football games, marching contests, and other community events.

Performance requirements during marching season are the most strenuous for the entire year. We march each Friday night of the football season and any playoff games that ensue. We also attend an invitational marching contest, UIL Region Marching contest (Area Marching and State Marching Contest depending on qualification), China Spring Homecoming parade, and the annual Veterans' Day Parade and festivities. There are also Monday night rehearsals starting in August (see band calendar for specific dates). These rehearsals begin at 7:00 p.m. and end at 9:00 p.m. and include an hour long sectional that will happen between 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Requirements for Participation:

1. Enrollment in Class
2. Attendance at all rehearsals, performances, and competitions
3. Successful play off required music required music from memory
4. Successful completion of grade requirements as prescribed by state law and CSISD
5. Proper maintenance of all instruments, uniforms, music and equipment
6. Prompt and strict adherence to deadlines and time schedules
7. A cooperative and willing attitude with the best possible final product in mind.

Selection for the varsity block is determined by marching ability, playing ability, rehearsal etiquette and attitude. Evaluation of the above elements are monitored closely throughout the season. Students may be switched in or out of the varsity block (to the non-varsity block) accordingly.

WIND ENSEMBLE

The Wind Ensemble is an audition-only group. Each band member will prepare and complete an audition as part of the requirement for the fall semester grade. The auditions will be held in November for the spring semester. The Wind Ensemble will meet during the last part of the fall semester and for the entire spring semester. The Wind Ensemble competes as a 4A Varsity ensemble. The goal of the band is to perform literature of the highest level with musical and artistic integrity. You are expected to participate in the ATSSB Band Auditions and be a part of the Private Lesson Program. Mr. Mothersole conducts the Wind Ensemble.

Performance requirements include the Winter Concert, UIL Concert and Sight-reading competition, Pre-UIL concert, Spring trip competition, Spring concert, recruiting concert for the 5th grade, and graduation band. Other performances may be scheduled at the director's discretion.

SYMPHONIC BAND

Symphonic Band is also chosen by audition in November at the same time as the Wind Ensemble and will meet during the last part of the fall semester and for the entire spring semester. The Symphonic band will compete as a 4A Non-varsity ensemble and will perform literature that is of the highest quality for young bands. The Symphonic Band has a tradition of excellence in performance and has an emphasis on developing ensemble awareness. Mr. Silver will conduct the Symphonic Band.

Performance requirements include the Winter concert, Pre-UIL Concert, UIL Concert and Sight-reading competition, Spring trip competition, and the Spring concert. A select number of students will also be asked to play in the graduation band. Participation in the graduation band will be a required portion of the student's grade if they agree to perform in the group.

CONCERT BAND

Concert Band is also chosen by audition in November at the same time as the Wind Ensemble and Symphonic band and will meet during the last part of the fall semester and for the entire spring semester. This group will focus on the fundamentals of making music and is designed to help students who are still developing their' musicality. The Concert Band is a competing group (4A sub non-varsity).

Performance requirements include the Winter Concert, Pre-UIL Concert, UIL Concert and Sight-reading competition, Spring trip competition, and the Spring concert.

JAZZ BAND

The Jazz band is a small ensemble that studies and performs jazz literature as well as other contemporary styles. The purpose of the group is the education of the first true American art form and create independent and innovative musicians. Students will have the opportunity to read through a numerous amount of music and will practice intensive sight-reading skills. The band meets during the school day for the entire year and membership is by director approval. If a student is interested in joining the group but does not play a typical jazz instrument, there is the opportunity of learning a new instrument, if willing.

Performance requirements include the Winter Jazz Concert, a spring festival, China Spring Education Foundation banquet, Spring Jazz Concert, and potentially various awards banquets.

CHALLENGES

Challenges for chair advancement is up to the director of each ensemble. You may only challenge one person at a time, and they must be the chair ahead of you. Each challenger has the responsibility of scheduling an agreed challenge time and date (a minimum of 2 days notice is required). Once you lose a Challenge you no longer can initiate a Challenge (just defend your chair placement). Challenges happen for two weeks after Thanksgiving Break.

AWARDS

Each Spring the work of the band will be recognized by a banquet in the student's honor. Students are strongly encouraged to attend this celebration of hard work and achievement.

The Band Boosters honor selected graduating seniors with Band Booster Scholarships. The Scholarship is available to all seniors. The award is chosen through application and selection process through the band booster organization. To be eligible the student's parent(s) or guardian must be a paid member of the Band Booster organization.

FUNDRAISERS

Fundraisers are a vital role of the financial success of the band program. Several fundraisers will be scheduled throughout the year. All fundraising goes to assist the purchasing of new equipment, along with scholarships for seniors, students wishing to participate in a band camp, spring trips and festival performances. All students in band will be expected to help with fundraising.

BAND LETTER JACKET POLICY

Please reference the Band Letter Jacket Policy outlined on the band website under the HS tab (cscougarband.com).

ALL-REGION BAND PROCESS

All students are encouraged to participate in the All-Region Band process. Auditions for this event take place in the fall semester each year. At the beginning of the year, each student will be given the audition music for the contest. Our students will compete against other band students from all of the programs in our Region, vying for a limited number of seats in the prestigious All-Region Band (with the opportunity to advance to Area and State).

UIL SOLO & ENSEMBLE CONTEST

The Solo & Ensemble contest is held each spring semester, and all students are encouraged to participate in this activity. For this contest, students may choose to perform a musical selection by themselves (solo) or perform with a group (ensemble). There are many different levels of music for the different capabilities of each student. In this competition, you are not competing against any other students. Instead, you are competing against a "standard of excellence," and judged according to your level of performance. Students receiving First Division ratings on a class 1 solo (memorized) or ensemble will have the opportunity to advance to the Texas State Solo & Ensemble Contest held at the end of the year. There are many different requirements for this contest, so if you are interested, please talk to your band director. Music for this contest will be issued starting in November.

BAND CAMPS (OUTSIDE OF CS)

Band/Music camps are available every summer from many colleges and universities across the state. Band camps typically last one full week, and they are incredible educational opportunities for band students to gain more musical knowledge. Students attending band camps have the opportunity to meet faculty from different universities as well as meeting many new friends. Students chosen to be the drum major are required to attend a summer band camp.

BAND BOOSTERS

All parents, friends, and supporters of the Cougar Bands are encouraged to become a part of the China Spring Band Boosters organization. The band boosters work hard throughout the year to raise funds to help with supplies and activities for our band students. Such supplies and activities may include purchasing of new instruments or equipment, providing meals for the band at away football games, providing special treats and prizes throughout the year (band banquet), and providing scholarships to our seniors and band camp attendees. Parents may help as much or as little as you would like but all help will certainly be needed and appreciated!

PRIVATE LESSONS

Students wishing to gain additional help or knowledge of their instrument may do so through private lessons. Private lessons are individual instruction provided by a highly qualified musician on the particular instrument you are seeking help. Private lessons may be used to assist students in preparation for All-Region Band auditions, Solo & Ensemble, College or University auditions, or just for the enjoyment of musical growth. While some of our students already study privately with professional musicians in our community, we would like to make private lessons more accessible to all by bringing the private teachers to our school. Most of the more successful band programs in Texas offer the opportunity for students to take private lessons. We must find out how many of you are seriously interested in this opportunity before we take steps to secure private teachers to come to China Spring for the school year. Those teachers who come to our school must have a certain number of students to teach to make it worth their while to travel to our campus. Your response to this letter will help us determine what instruments can be taught at China Spring in a regular weekly program. Please fill out a private lesson interest form, and we will have the appropriate private lesson teacher contact you and schedule a lesson.

Private lessons are designed to supplement classroom instruction. The teachers use materials and one-on-one instruction to help improve the individual student's level of proficiency rather than to rehearse music that the student will be performing in the band. Any student who desires to perform at a level higher than that which our band literature offers should take private lessons. Those who desire to be competitive when auditioning for high school-level All-Region Band will benefit from individual instruction. High School students who wish to perform at the highest level of success in UIL Regional Solo and Ensemble Contest and have a chance at State competition should have a private teacher.

COST

While participation is optional, those who elect to take private lessons must commit to attend a weekly 30-minute lesson and pay the private teacher accordingly. Additional practice time, on the student's own time, will be necessary if the student is to benefit from the private lesson. Most private teachers who are college students studying to be professional performers/teachers will charge from \$20 to \$25 for each 30-minute lesson. A college level professor will usually charge at least \$50 per lesson. Payment and attendance will be the responsibility of the student and parent. Private teachers must be given notice if a student must miss a lesson due to illness or other school activity. Payment is expected when a student cancels a lesson without notifying the private teacher. The band directors cannot assume the responsibility for communication between the student and private teacher. The commitment should be long-term (for the school year) since lessons are designed with long-range goals in mind. Private lessons are not for a temporary "quick fix" of a student's performance problem.

SCHEDULE

The lessons will be held at the High School or Middle School band hall and will run from 3:45 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Some days might go a little longer, but there will not be any night time lessons. Days will be determined by the availability of a private teacher. The Texas Education Agency mandates that the private lessons only be taught after school. Student transportation on the lesson day will be the responsibility of the parent. Specific scheduling will be done between the Student, Parents, and lessons teacher that fits into our time frame stated above.

*We will only be able to have a Private Lesson Program for those instruments supported by a sufficient number of students.

STATEMENT OF EXCELLENCE AND COMPLIANCE

We understand the contents of the China Spring High School Band Handbook (available online at www.cscougarband.com) and the calendar commitment for being a part of the China Spring High School Band. We understand what is expected for both students and parents and will adhere to all expectations, policies, and requirements as stated.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Student Signature

Date

Student PRINTED name

Please return this signed form by August 3rd, 2026

“Excellence in everything we do!!”