

“The”

Trojan Pride Marching Band

2026

Member Handbook



The 2025 Trojan Pride Marching Band

Table of Contents

Pg. Information

- 1. Welcome letter and instructions for using the handbook**
- 2. Who we are....*the marching band staff.***
- 3. Who is in the marching band?**
- 4. Spring Training Info.**
- 4. Spring Percussion Training**
- 4. April and May Music Preparation (evening rehearsals)**
- 5. Centerburg Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony info.**
- 5. Centerburg U.S.A Days Parade (end of June)**
- 6. Marching Band physical conditioning**
- 6. Band Camp Info.**
- 7. UDB (Ultimate Drill Book)**
- 7. Fall Practice Schedule & Attendance Policy**
- 8. Band Performances (Policies)**
- 9. Wearing of the uniform**
- 9. When it's super hot at a game or performance.**
- 10. In the stands at a football game (guidelines)**
- 10. Pre-Game and Halftime Shows**
- 11. Friday night band dinners**
- 11. Chain of Command - Professional staff & Student Leaders**
- 13. Consequences for Actions**

Welcome! Please read and make notes!

The faculty, staff and band members **welcome you** to the 2026 edition of one of the finest marching bands in central Ohio; “The” *CHS Trojan Pride Marching Band*. The word “pride” is part of our name because that’s what we bring to the table during every practice, football game, festival, parade or competition. When we are together as a unit we do things a certain way, follow a chain of command and a particular protocol. We have a long and distinguished tradition going back decades, and have always been a band that is well respected by the student body, faculty, staff and community. The band in Centerburg is known as a strong one among other high schools in the area, and attempts to make each and every season better than the one that came before!

As a member of the *Trojan Pride Band* you are **respected** in the school and among the teachers. People will stop you if you’re wearing your band jacket (or other band spirit wear) at the market, the mall, a football game or parade and tell you how great you look and sound and how proud they are to have a **great** band! It’s your job to **uphold that tradition every time you suit-up**, shine your shoes, attend a sectional or take the field for practice. *Great bands and teams “practice like great bands” and teams. You can’t turn it on and off on game day!!*

We (the band staff) treat our practice time and planning no different from any other Varsity-level activity. Planning ahead, communication, attendance, attitude, perseverance and dedication are what marching band (all bands really) is all about. It doesn’t matter if you’re an incoming, inexperienced Freshman or a starting-string soloing Senior, we are all of the same importance! **Nobody’s on the bench (ever)** in the “**sport**” of marching band!!

The CHS Marching Band is a very popular student activity with **25% of the total high school population involved!** That is an absolutely unheard of percentage, especially for a school our size. We’re going to be great, and you’re going to be in the lead as we become great. We will push you as far as we can, but will also show empathy (even some sympathy at times) and promise that we’ll always respect what “you” are doing as long as you are honest and true to the group. So... **Let’s do this thing!**

2.

On the following pages you'll find "*everything*" about how the band ("*The*" *Trojan Pride Band*) works. Yes, you'll be held to a high standard and yes, you'll have a blast doing it! **Yeah!**

Who We Are:

We (*the staff*) are professional educators / musicians who have studied and practiced relentlessly on our instruments, mastered the elements of music theory, composition and advanced conducting technique, and have completed countless hours of child psychology and teaching and learning methods courses. We either have our Masters degrees in music (in addition to many other certifications) or have completed at least 150 hours of hands-on graduate study from various universities. We deeply care about the students we teach and want what is best for them. We don't treat what we do as a job, but rather a part of who we are; *what defines us*. When we have a problem at school we tend to take it home with us! We lose sleep over it and dwell on it until it's fixed. When one (or a group) of our students is bickering or having some type of social issue it bothers us, especially because we care about the students and prefer to see them working together and getting along.

There is an old saying. One we've always sort of held in contempt; "*Those who can't do, teach*". That is absolutely not our case. We have been honor band guest conductors, have taught college-level classes and have performed professionally in wind symphonies, jazz groups and in Broadway pit orchestras as well as in live concerts and for record labels. We have over 45 years of combined experience as marching band directors, having arranged both music and drill for both our own and other high schools. Our groups have been heard on the stage at Lincoln Center (NYC), in the Giant's Stadium, on Ellis Island, on Main Street in Disneyworld, on 5th Avenue in NYC and in the Ohio State University Jazz Festival, as well as placing in state finals in both marching band and jazz band.

3.

- We do what we do because we feel it is important! It creates a platform for future student success on *many levels*, and makes memories that will truly last a lifetime!
- We want our students to be a part of everything they can in their high school years, and refuse to take all their time away from other worthwhile activities such as athletics, art, journalism, drama, scouting, 4H, FFA, FCCLA, etc... How can we really tell what they'll be good at when someone in their life demands all their time all year? **It's not right, and it's not who we are!**
- Being parents ourselves, we see and understand the importance of **parent involvement**, and wish we had more of it in the marching band, music boosters and music department. We'd like to see more students actually "*studying*" their instruments with a private instructor, attempting to get as good at their instrument as they can! *Funny how we always seem to find time for things when they're important to us!*
- We are educators first - musicians and directors second. We say this because "*how can one expect to teach something if they don't understand who it is they're trying to teach*"? We're not teaching music per se, **we're teaching kids!** Teaching kids... music, perseverance, responsibility, respect, protocol, chain of command, etiquette and teamwork!

Welcome back! We're here for you! It's gonna be a super season!

Who is in the marching band?

Easy answer... **Everyone** who elects the course "**High School Symphonic Band**"! We attempt to keep all students playing and involved over their high school years, and try to assist where we can, in providing "*accommodations*" for students with physical ailments or a personal issue, but, generally speaking, **if you elect "band" as a course then you will march in some capacity in the fall!**

Percussion Spring Training:

If you are interested in trying out for the “**battery**” (marching drumline) or pit (Front Ensemble) you **must be present** at the evening [Spring Training practices](#) (listed on the blog / Weekly Announcements and later in the season calendar). During these evening practices from **6:30 - 8:30 PM on selected days** students are taught and monitored on all the different marching percussion instruments like bass, snare, quints and crash cymbals. Students are eventually either placed on a marching percussion instrument or referred to the “*elite*” percussion pit or “front ensemble” - where we always welcome talent.

April & May Marching Music Preparation:

Before we go on summer break we will already have put together our **marching band 3-ring binders** in order to bring them home over the summer **to practice**. We’ve also played through “*most*” marching band music a half dozen times during the 9th period high school band class, and have introduced it to the current 8th grade band (our incoming Freshman class) so they are familiar with it before going on break. While we don’t necessarily need the music to be perfect for the first day of band camp, **students should have “at least” worked out their parts over the summer as far as fingerings, notes and rhythms are concerned!** Those students who have not will be assigned a staff member or upperclassman to work with them on a remedial level until such time that we feel they are ready to “*take the field*”. The marching drill will be ready in mid to late July, and will be **available in the band room** as a paper copy to be placed in plastic sleeves in the marching band binder, as well as on **YouTube**. The entire 3D Pyware version of the field show will be on the music website! To be honest, with that kind of technology available, everybody should come to camp with the show already memorized. *No... not really!*

5.

Centerburg Memorial Day Parade:

Memorial Day marks the day of the last marching band activity of the year. The problem we have with where Memorial Day falls is that *sometimes* it occurs an entire week after school gets out, and it's the last thing most families have on their minds, thus this past year I received 22 last minute (*the day before*) e-mails from both parents and students stating they would not be at the Memorial Day Parade due to other commitments (*mostly picnics or barbeques*). This put me in a very difficult position, and threw me into a quasi panic as I was just hoping to have enough students to form a band, play taps, and represent us with a certain amount of dignity at this once yearly, *very important ceremony*. Therefore, let it be known across the land that the policy of the Centerburg Band is that **participating in ALL band events is mandatory**, and that includes the **the Old Time Farm Festival Parade** and the **Memorial Day Parade**. We all want time with family, and want to attend barbecues, picnics, car shows and the like, but *let's not forget our commitment from the beginning of the year!* **I salute all the band members who are always there!** *That's what it's all about! Thank you for your service!*

- **Note:** *Because the **USA Days Parade** falls in the middle of the summer when many families are away, students are at camps and other things are happening, we simply ask you to march if you are in town. If you are unable to be present due to any of the scenarios (or other) stated above, **we need to know "in writing" by the last week of school!** so we (the staff) can plan ahead. If you are an athlete who has a game/meet that conflicts time-wise with a parade you'll be excused granted a note from home is received **well in advance (a week or more)** Thank you!*

Centerburg U.S.A. Days Parade:

The last weekend in June , we perform in the **Annual Heart of Ohio U.S.A. Days Parade**. The band comes in the day before to rehearse, then we march the parade and perform a little show at the park consisting of stands tunes, the Star Spangled Banner and the fight song (OSU version of Across the Field). **We always wear our band polos and khaki shorts** for this parade. New members and incoming freshmen are encouraged to participate (90% usually do), but, generally speaking, are not necessarily required to be a part of the band until the first day of mini band camp.

6.

Marching Band Conditioning:**IMPORTANT!!!**

Physical Conditioning for marching band exists on various levels, and is very important! While you may only need a series of physical exercises to strengthen your legs and build-up a level of **aerobic endurance**, others (drum line, low brass) should be doing sit-ups, leg lifts, push-ups and squats in order to build-up the muscles in the lower back and legs. If you've been inactive all summer and expect to come to band camp and jump right in it's going to surprise you - Bike riding, swimming, etc... in addition to some "light" free weights (baritone, mellophone, trumpet, trombone and sousa players) are absolutely necessary to avoid arm pain, fatigue and/or damage during marching band.

In addition, if you're going to be successful in band camp, you're going to need to "play" your instrument **over the summer!** You need to prepare your body for what it will need to endure. Those students who do prepare don't experience the level of discomfort that others do. *Get prepped*



Band Camp: WEEK #1 (Monday, July 27th - Friday, July 31st)

(Mandatory)

Band Camp Week 1 takes place the week prior to Drill. It is important that band members show up for their scheduled sectionals and rehearsals as this is the week we give individual and group instruction and put the finishing touches on the music before putting it to the field. While different sections meet at various times, **it is imperative that everyone is present when they should be!** *Orientation for 8th and 9th graders is very important!*

Band Camp: Week #2 (Sunday, August 2nd - Friday, August 7th)

MANDATORY

Band camp Week 2 is literally "**5 days of "cramming"** everything we need to know for the season. This includes the pre-game show, halftime show, 25 stands

7.

tunes, distribution of uniforms and raincoats and individual and group marching band photos. **It is absolutely imperative that all students attend band camp!** Please attempt to refrain from scheduling doctor, dentist, orthodontic or other visits as well as driver education training or anything else that will take you away from the band during the "Camp Week". Even missing an hour can cause you to have a hard time keeping up with the learning of drill AND it slows down everyone else as well!

"UDB" (Ultimate Drill Book) is a downloadable app on cell phones that will contain all band member's marching drill (choreography) and will be the way band members "sign-in" to rehearsal for attendance (*NEW this season!*). The only thing the student will need to do is be in an area with wi-fi in order to download the app. No data or phone plan is ever necessary. Band members will, however, need to have a cell phone with them in order to access their drill and music on the field and in the school. Yes...*paper copies will be available*, but will ultimately inhibit the student's ability to be on the same level as the other band members.

Fall Practice Schedule:

This year the marching band will be practicing on **Wednesday evenings from 6:00 - 9:00 PM** under the lights on the New Track Field AND on **Thursday afternoons from 3:15 - 5:00 PM.** on the New Track Field. Friday afternoons consist of about an hour of practice, loading, suiting up and polishing shoes and having dinner with the band. Drum Majors and/or section leaders will lead student tasks!

Fall Practice Attendance:

- If you are also participating in a fall sport **you will need to submit your practice and game schedule to the band office** prior to the 1st day of band camp which begins on Monday, July 27th. *Athletes will need to be present for the 8-12 Noon time slot* so they can learn drill. *This is just for 5 days... so please be sure your coaches are aware!*
- Other than personal illness, there is no reason (other than an emergency) for missing an evening or after school marching band practice. We all count on each other to know our music and our moves. **PARENTS need to email the director in the case of emergency or extenuating circumstance,**

8.

- **“IF” an absence is absolutely unavoidable** then arrangements must be made **BY PARENTS** one day in advance by contacting the band office (740-625-6055, ext.2185). Unless you are an upperclassman (grades 11 & 12) **the contact must come from the parent!** *Students (or parents) who call-out last minute or do not show up (a day before or the day of a practice) **will not be excused** , the absence will go on the band member’s fall record and they **will not be permitted to perform in the next pre-game or halftime show!** It will also affect their grade!*
- **RATIONALE:** *The planning process for marching band is in depth, and we count on students being there to execute those plans. When students call out a day early or the day of it throws a monkey wrench into the mix. Our schedule is tight, and time is little and very precious. **We all need to show respect for the group by not taking absences lightly!***

Band Performances:

Band practices and all performances are mandatory. Please do not ask to be excused for social reasons, and realize that when you’re part of a team **you’re there for the “TEAM”!** You must be present at all parades, football games, festivals, competitions, etc.. Furthermore, the grade you receive during the first term reflects what you do in marching band (music, marching, attendance, level of performance, mastery of marching terms and maneuvers, etc... Missing a band performance of any kind will result as a 0% in the gradebook and possibly being “docked” from the next performance, and, depending on how heavily it’s weighted, could cause an average that *you’re less than pleased with.* Obviously, if there is a serious issue and it’s called to our attention in advance, we can work with you. **The key here, however, is communication.** *“Day of” requests will be most likely denied.*

Please refer to the Calendar Of Events on the music website and mark your Calendars now.

Wearing of the Uniform:

The minute you put on a *Trojan Pride* uniform you are making a statement. You're saying that you're a part of something special; something that has taken hours of commitment, dedication, perseverance and determination to become. Your uniform should (and will) reflect that. Before "falling in" formation your section leader will inspect your uniform. If it is not up to standard you'll be asked to "fix" whatever it is that needs to be fixed. On the following page are some guidelines:

Wearing of the Trojan Pride Uniform: Remember; you've "earned" the right to wear one!

- 1) Shoes **shined to a tee!** (no exceptions!)
- 2) **Pant creases straight** and never "bunched-up" around the shoes.
- 3) All buttons (and senior cords) secured properly
- 4) Hat (shako) complete with plume (when necessary)
- 5) No hanging jewelry
- 6) No excessive make-up except when directed by the staff or for spirit days at games
- 7) All parts of uniform zipped, buttoned and/or attached properly (at all times)
- 8) Long hair either tied-up, braided or other and under the hat.
- 9) **Jeans cannot be worn underneath the uniform.** Something light or shorts only.

WHEN IT'S SUPER HOT!



When it becomes uncomfortably warm at a football game or performance we (the staff) will tell you when you are permitted to remove your coat. When removed, the coat should be **folded neatly** and placed on your seat. Coats should not be flying around, hanging-over fences or the back of grandstands. Again; **Respect!** Band members NOT wearing an appropriate black Band t-shirt under their coat will not be permitted to remove them. **Suspenders must remain on and flys must remain zipped at all times!**

10.



In the Stands at a football game: LOOK!

For heaven's sake - Have Fun!.....**BUT** ... *remember who you are and what you represent!!!* Behavior that is considered unbecoming of a band member will absolutely not be tolerated. No throwing flip books, bottle caps, empty water bottles, bad language, obnoxious behavior, etc... While we (the band staff) assume that you're all pretty mature, we notice something every week that does not cease to amaze us. Any friends who are NOT part of the band are not to be hanging out with you OR in the band stands!

Follow the game (*at least try to!*) and **watch** the drum major(s) for their signals. **Afterall, that's why you're there!** Music should be up and **ready** at any given moment. Band members who are late standing up, getting their music and playing aren't helping the band, they're dragging it down. That's not going to happen! Everyone must be in the stands - not standing off to the side!

The Pre-Game and the Halftime Shows:

The **pre-game** show is very important. It represents the time-honored traditions of our school, band and community. It's a traditional band pre-game and **MUST** be absolutely perfect! You need to master the 8 to 5 size step, learn to use your peripheral vision and know all the moves. It's not hard, but it needs to be "*practiced*". The **halftime show** is huge, and represents hours upon hours of sweat, hard work and determination. **The audience expects a great show** and we cannot let them down! At that point, you're not students, but **professional musicians entertaining an audience!** *That's how you have to see it!*

Friday Evening Band Dinners:

Each and every Friday afternoon the marching band has dinner together before suiting up, loading the buses, and going to the game. **Each section of the band is generally responsible for putting together a band meal** one (1) time during football season, and ordinarily the section leader heads-up the logistics and arrangements - obviously with help from home. We have **100 people in the band** so planning needs to be done in advance. Section leaders must meet with their section over band camp and communicate to the staff exactly what they will be providing. Each week band members sign-up for meals based on what is being offered. We can communicate that to section leaders by Wednesday of each week so nothing goes to waste AND so we have enough food. That also happens sometimes and people are not happy about it!

Here are some easy, crowd pleasing meals:

- Sloppy Joes
- Tacos
- Pasta
- Shredded Chicken
- Pizza
- Lasagna

Band Dinner Schedule: *To Be Announced at Band Camp!*

Chain of Command, Student Leadership & Band Member Assignments:

Band Director: Had to pass high school, lots of college and grad school, lots of professional gigging and playing. Been doing it for almost 41 years... ***So I'm in charge!***

Asst Director: Directs various clerical and logistical situations as well as overseeing or running rehearsals and directing the work of the volunteer and paid adjunct staff members. Is in charge of the band and/or rehearsals in the absence of the director.

12.

Color Guard Instructor: Manages and instructs the silks, rifles sabres, etc... and writes (with the help of the guard captains) all of the guardwork (choreography) that goes along with the drill. Is also responsible for keeping track of all color guard inventory such as poles, flags, props, uniforms accessories, etc... and is responsible for working with the director and asst. director in the area of visual design and coordination, equipment changes and dance moves.

Volunteer and paid adjunct staff members: are individuals such as student teachers, talented parents who lead *super drum lines* and college graduates in pursuit of careers who “want” to be here working with us! They are to be treated as any other teacher or director! All volunteers must be background checked and complete online training dealing with working with students in various capacities.

Drum Major (s) - Application, Interview and Audition required. **Attending a student leadership training camp is mandatory.** Drum Major(s) also supervise all preparatory and set-up activities and jump in to assist if needed or if someone is absent. Field Commander(s) also keep track of attendance and band data.

Band Manager- Chosen by Director. **Attending a student leadership training seminar or conference is strongly suggested.** Other than the drum majors, the Band Managers are the students who oversee all logistical situations; attendance, data management (lockers, instruments, etc...), works in conjunction with section leaders to be sure break-down and clean-up occurs properly, sets chairs/stands for rehearsals, works with band librarians to assure music is ready, etc... The band manager is basically the band director's “*right hand man*” when it comes to the logistics of the everyday success of the group.

Brass & Woodwind & Basics/Marching Rehearsal Techs - Chosen by Director. **Attending a student leadership conference, camp or seminar is strongly encouraged.** While section leaders deal with their particular section of the band exclusively, the brass and woodwind techs are in charge of “running” large group rehearsals consisting of various combined sections of the band. **Conducting, score reading and in-school drum major (or other) training is required** to attain the level of brass or woodwind tech.

13.

Section Leaders - Application and interview required. **Attending a student leadership training conference through either DMA (Drum Major Academy) or FJM (Fred J. Miller) “strongly” suggested.** In addition to leading their section in practices and sectionals, all section leaders will be assigned to oversee one (1) preparatory task. *Section leaders should have all their music learned prior to mini camp and be at least a “notch” above any other player in their section!*

Color Guard Captain(s) - Application and interview required. **Attending a student leadership / guard camp is strongly suggested.** In addition to being the “go-to” person, the guard captain should be willing to put in extra time meeting with the color guard instructor to prepare and create guard work and review / adjust marching drill.

Band Librarians: Are in charge of all marching band music and are the “go-to” band members for issues related to flip books and UDB issues.

Band Members: Registration through Mr. D. and the guidance department. In addition to performing on their instrument, most band members will be assigned preparatory tasks such as a) the uniform room b) the band library c) flip folios d) band trailer supervision e) field set-up, f) pit instrument assistance, g) sound system set-up, h) band dinner clean-up, band manager, plumes, gloves, music secretary(s), etc...

Band Aides: Student members who “assist” with trailer loading, unloading and field set-up / break down. Band aides also manage instrument line-up prior to football games and competitions / festivals. Band aides **must sign-up for for their shifts and be available during those times** and for those events.

Parent Pit Crew: Parents who assist in trailer-pulling, loading, unloading (large equipment) and assist on the field when setting the pit instruments and equipment. Parents are generally “ear marked” for a particular job they perform at each and every event. They will help oversee the work of the student band aids.

Consequences for actions: PLEASE READ!

We need to hold all band members accountable for their actions and, while we realize that some things are out of your hands, we need to follow through with what we

14.

expect.! Please understand that we value all our members, but we are a large band and **absolutely must follow protocol**. Without it we have mayhem!

Next year's Senior Handbook Committee has condensed the list of infractions. Hopefully this will be easier to understand. Basically, any one of the infractions listed below may result in a grade being lowered, points not given or, if necessary, a band member not being permitted to perform. Please read them and try your best to be on top of things...

- Excessive lateness to practice
- Excessive unexcused absences
- Behavior unbecoming of a Trojan Pride Band Member
- No black socks
- No black T under coat
- Shoes not shined (need to shine every week).
- Uniform ill-fitting or wrinkled
- Constantly causing issues, distractions or drama
- No drill book / UDB on the field
- No dots when needed
- No music when needed
- Absence of 1 gallon water jug

Annual Upperclassmen Trip to BOA (Bands of America) National Championships & Leadership Clinic: 2nd weekend in November (usually)

All Juniors and Seniors in the band program are invited to join us on the trip. Cost is between \$115 - \$135. We'll keep you updated, but mark your calendars!

Camps, Performances and Practices 2026

Please see the complete list of workshops, clinics and camps on the music web page in the marching band section.