

# **East Coweta High School Band**



**Rising 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Information Packet  
2020-2021**

# What is the High School Band Experience?

Unlike most other classes, band offers a wide variety of opportunities for the student. It is one of the only classes where excellence is not only expected, but essential to success. Imagine if an English teacher graded everyone in the class to the level of the weakest student! I'll bet you would not see heads on desks and homework going undone. In band, everyone **MUST** achieve to the highest level or a performance will sound terrible. Even one person making a grade of "60" on a piece of music means 40% of the notes were played in error...not pleasant to hear!

In addition to teaching performance skills, band teaches the student to be an active, thinking person. For each note played, there are numerous considerations and instantaneous decisions to make. How loud or soft? How fast or slow? How does the note start: How does it end? Who else plays it? Am I in-tune? Nowhere else on campus is the demand for active thought any stronger.

Band also teaches life skills. Communication is the main component of music. The rehearsal and performance schedule of the band demands planning and time management...skills that will be valuable all through life. Goal setting, problem solving, peer interaction... all of these develop quickly as a part of the band experience.

The Band Program at East Coweta has established itself as one of the finest in the state. Students here have had experiences that others only dream about. Few other activities offer the travel opportunities, the chance to meet and interact with the legends in the field, and the satisfaction of knowing that your time, talent, and effort have paid off through the highest levels of achievement.



## EAST COWETA BAND OBJECTIVES

The East Coweta Band and Guard Units form an integral part of school life and is recognized as an all-school activity. It is one of the largest and most active voluntary student organizations and its members form an active cosmopolitan group.

The primary objectives of the band program are:

# P.R.I.D.E.

Maximize **P**otential

Show **R**espect

Be **I**nclusive

Demonstrate **D**iscipline

Maintain High **E**xpectations

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **What if I am not sure if I want to do band in high school?**

Remember when your children wouldn't eat the food you made for them? You always said, "Try it before you decide you don't like it." Band is the same way. You should sign up for band even if you are unsure. If at some point you decide that band is not for you, drop the class. It is much easier to drop something after trying it, than to join late when you decide you miss it.

## **How is band different in high school?**

While the actual act of playing your instrument is similar, the social network and safety net that high school band provides is very different from middle school. From day one, your child will be musically and personally mentored by successful upperclassmen who have a vested interest in their success. They will have dozens of new and like-minded friends before school even begins and have experiences (Friday night football games and trips) that are unlike anything they have experienced in middle school.

## **Can I do band and sports?**

YES. There might be occasional conflicts, but know that our faculty works hard to resolve as many conflicts as possible before they occur and to work collaboratively to solve them when they arise.

## **How much out of school time is required?**

The many ensembles have different requirements for participation. Some ensembles require very little (less than standard homework) while other ensembles require more substantial commitment. Generally, the greater the level of commitment, the greater the reward and memories. Regardless of the ensemble, a year-long calendar will be provided well in advance to help you plan for these events.

## **What are the costs?**

The costs associated with band depend on which ensembles your child participates in and what events they participate in. The band boosters and staff work together to provide fundraising opportunities for each and every child and ensure that no one is excluded due to financial issues.

## **What band should I register for?**

All incoming students should register for Beginning Band 1 and Beginning Instrumental Ensemble. We will come down to the school to hear your child play. If a schedule change is required based on their musical skill sets, we will make the change for you.

## **How do I procure an instrument?**

We wish funds were available for us to provide every child with an instrument, however, this is simply not possible. The school provides many of the larger and more expensive instruments. We encourage students playing smaller, less expensive instruments to either rent or purchase their own instrument. We will not let instrument availability or financial constraints keep your child from participating. More information regarding instrument availability will be mailed as the new school year approaches.

## **What if I have other questions?**

Please know that we are here to answer any and all questions that you may have. Due to the busy nature of our program, it is difficult to contact us by phone. The best way for you to reach us is electronically at [robertl.owens@cowetaschools.net](mailto:robertl.owens@cowetaschools.net) and [chris.neidhardt@cowetaschools.net](mailto:chris.neidhardt@cowetaschools.net). This will allow us to respond to your question, whether you are available by phone or not. You may also visit our website at [www.eastcowetaband.org](http://www.eastcowetaband.org).

# Fair Share & Fundraising

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When determining the budget for the Marching Program the total budget is divided by the number of anticipated participating students. This number is the fair share that each student pays to participate in the marching band. We do offer fundraisers throughout the semesters to offset some of this cost.

Due to the current situation with the Coronavirus, we are still working on the budget for next fall. We realize that many families are having health and financial difficulties during this time and we are working to bring down the fair share payments for next season. We hope to know more in the coming weeks as more information about next season becomes available.

Once the budget is determined for next year, the Fair Share amount will be broken down into 4 separate payments due monthly.

Each student and their family will be responsible for paying their fair share for each band activity in which they participate. It is also required for families to earn \$200 worth of Ways and Means credits by working general fundraisers. Each event you work earns you \$50 towards your \$200 requirement. Families may elect to pay the \$200 in lieu of working. With some of our main general fundraisers up in the air due to the virus. We will really need the help of all boosters to raise money next year. The money the Band Boosters raise helps to keep the Fair Share lower for each student.

For family budgeting purposes, the following additional costs and fees may apply:

- The fair share includes marching band camp, instructional staff, one show shirt, uniform rental, music and drill for the marching band season. The first installment of the fair share is due the night of the Forms meeting.
- There may be additional expenses for supplies
  - Each student will be required to wear a uniform moisture wicking T Shirt. These may be purchased for \$15/\$18. It is highly recommended that students have 2 of these shirts as they will be worn under their uniforms at all times. A very limited supply of shirts are available for students who lose theirs during the season
  - Each Marching Student will be provided with 1 pair of Marching Gloves. Additional gloves may be purchased for \$5 a pair.
  - Each student will be required to own/purchase a pair of Viper marching shoes. The cost to order shoes is \$40 per pair. The cost to order after band camp is \$50 to cover the expedited shipping cost.
  - Colorguard students will be responsible for purchasing shoes as well. The cost for these are approximately \$40-\$50 but depend on the guard costume. Some students on weapon may be required to purchase a rifle or a sabre.
  - Band Class Fees- Students in the Concert Band have a \$25 band class fee for each semester of class. Students in the Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble have a \$25 fee for Fall Semester and a \$65 fee for the Spring Semester.

**East Coweta Marching Indians**  
**Band Camp 2020**  
**July 20-23**  
**July 27-30**

***What?*** Band Camp is held each year in mid-summer and is held at East Coweta High School. Students concentrate on the music and marching for their halftime show and competitions. The directors run the camp with staff brought in to assist. Parent chaperones are assigned to assist the students with whatever needs might arise and to supervise them while they are at camp. Parents frequently have just as much fun as the students do.

***Who?*** Band Camp is mandatory for all members of the “Marching Indians”. Approximately 50 hours of “field time” are included at the camp or the equivalent of six weeks of regular after school practice. So if a student misses camp they will be very far behind. This makes it difficult for that student and the entire band to catch up. **Please plan now to be sure your child does not have a doctor’s appointment or other conflicts during this week. Missing rehearsal could cause your child to be put on alternate status.**

***Where?*** Band Camp will be held at East Coweta High School

***When?*** Mini Band Camp will be July 20-23 this year. We will rehearse from 9:00am-5:00pm. Main Band Camp will be July 27-30. We will rehearse from 8:30am-9:00pm. We will have evening activities for fun at night after rehearsal.

***Why?*** The purpose for having band camp is to have time for concentrated instruction and practice for working on the drill and music for the show. During this time, the students learn more about their band and other band members. They learn how to work as a group and how important their part is to the whole. There is a good fellowship amongst the students, faculty and chaperones. The students also have “off-time” planned activities that are a lot of fun.

We will have further information about band camp as the date gets closer. Please be flexible as we may need to change these dates to accommodate government guidelines due to the virus. Your child’s safety is of utmost importance to us. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Mr. Owens or Mr. Neidhardt