

Rancho Cucamonga Marching Cougars Freshman Student/Parent Handbook

Introduction

The Instrumental Music Program at Rancho Cucamonga offers Marching Band, Jazz Band, Wind Ensemble, Concert Band Color Guard and Percussion Ensemble. This reference guide is designed to answer your questions about the program and make the student's experience more enjoyable.

Parents fund this program covering the operational costs of the program for their child's participation. Every parent is a Music Booster, and is asked to volunteer as much as possible. Music Boosters provide logistical, emotional and additional financial support to the students. Please be assured that costs are kept as low as possible and yet still provide an enriching experience for students. Your student will have a great time and establish a social basis of friends quickly.

Each student will have an account established for him or her to help defray costs. The Boosters offer a variety of fundraisers throughout the year in which students can participate through 80 / 20 sharing (20% to the program's general fund and 80% directly to the student's account) to build up their accounts. These opportunities will be presented throughout the school year at monthly Music Booster meetings. **All parents are requested and encouraged to attend the meetings.** Attendance at these meetings provides parents with important information to keep them abreast of current events.

The students are involved in many on and off campus activities. This requires logistical support from the Music Boosters. Your involvement is necessary. There is something that each and every parent can do. We encourage you to get started today by contacting one of our board members (see listing at end).

Booster Meetings are generally held on the third Monday of each month.

Marching Band

Marching Band is conducted during the first semester of the school year. The "Rancho Cucamonga Marching Cougars" (RCMC) is comprised of both Marching Band and Color Guard competing as one unit. This unit will learn an intricate show of music and marching. Our students compete in Field Show Competitions against other schools. The field shows are generally every Saturday beginning early-October and continue until the weekend before Thanksgiving. **ALL PERFORMANCES ARE MANDATORY.** Due to the intricacy of this show, if even one student is absent, it is quite evident on the field and the group's success will suffer.

"Band Camp" is held the last 2 weeks before school begins. Freshmen and new members report the first day to learn marching basics. Band Camp is held

Monday - Friday from 7am until 4pm, here at Rancho. **DAILY ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY. ALL STUDENT PAPERWORK MUST BE TURNED IN ON THEIR FIRST DAY OF CAMP.** Please make dentist, doctor and other appointments for another time that does not conflict with rehearsal times. It is also highly recommended that your child is physically active a few weeks prior to band camp so they will more easily be able to participate. After school begins, rehearsals are on Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons/evenings after school for marching. Various instrumental sections may have additional rehearsals from time to time or additional rehearsals may be called at the Director's discretion. Once again, all rehearsals are mandatory.

RCMC attends all home football games to help promote school spirit. Pep songs are played from the stands. Half-time performances are at the discretion of the Director and are also mandatory.

Uniforms are assigned during one week of Band Camp. **UNIFORMS DO NOT GO HOME.** All uniforms stay on campus. Alteration instructions are provided during the uniform fitting. Each student is taught how to hang his or her uniform and will **not be excused** after a performance until it is done correctly.

Another task of the Boosters is to help with pit equipment (percussion instruments, sound system, etc.) for performances. The pit crew or "Cougar Crew" must quickly move the pit equipment on and off the field in a limited time. It takes many hands to do this effectively. Parent help is always needed and welcome. The 2nd Vice President coordinates these efforts.

Each marching student must purchase uniform shoes. During Band Camp, students will be fit for their uniform and marching shoes. **ONE** order will be made by the Uniform Coordinator to purchase shoes. Parents may want to purchase shoes that are one size too large and double up on socks so the shoes can perhaps last for more than one year.

Field show competitions are events where units compete against other schools. There may be as few as 18 or as many as 60 schools at competitions. At most competitions schools are classified by the size of performing unit. These are fun and exciting events that parents should plan to attend. Students will be given a "call time" to report to school. Details for each competition are usually given to students the week preceding the event. They are transported by bus to the event and back. All students are **required** to ride the bus. If it is a regional competition or if the unit competes in the finals of the event, students will not return until late in the evening. Each student needs warm clothes and food money of approximately \$10 to \$15 at tournaments. We have one overnight trip planned during the first semester for our Marching Band and Color Guard. Details about this out-of-town competition will be given out at the first Booster Meeting of the year. Costs of this trip are included in your band fees.

Remember that fundraisers can help to defray costs of trips and reduce your student cost balances!

Chaperones are needed for all football games, competitions and out of town trips. First, you should know that WE TAKE CARE OF THE KIDS. Students are treated by the chaperones as their own. The chaperones truly have as much fun (or more) than the students. They too make new friends by participating. We strongly urge parents to consider signing up to chaperone at an event or out of town trip. You will make lifelong friends in the process and have as much fun, if not more, than the students.

Color Guard

Students in Color Guard perform to music using dance, flags, sabers and rifles. During the first semester of the school year they perform with the Marching Band as the "Rancho Cucamonga Marching Cougars". The choreography of the dance, flags, sabers and rifles adds pageantry to the field show. Students attend and perform at home football games and competitions as one unit.

Color Guard uniforms are designed and made during late summer. Performance shoes must also be purchased. The cost for the uniform is included in your fees.

During the second semester, the Color Guard is called Winter Guard and they will perform a different routine with recorded music. The Marching Band is not involved. Rehearsals continue as necessary and competitions are held usually on Saturday's beginning in February through the middle of April. These are indoor events. Different uniforms are designed and different flags are used for Winter Guard. Whenever possible, the uniform designers will make an effort to use "recycled" parts of other uniforms as they can to save on costs. Some other items that may be needed for Winter Guard would be half soles (a dance shoe) and gloves (for those working with weaponry).

Jazz Band

The Jazz Ensemble is a yearlong class. The jazz ensemble performs at home assemblies and school concerts and in the spring, at jazz festivals held throughout southern California. The jazz ensemble also has concert attire, details of which will be made available at the beginning of the school year. There may be an overnight trip to a jazz festival in the spring. Detailed information will be distributed to the jazz families approximately two months prior to the tentative trip.

Wind Ensemble

Wind Ensemble is held during the second semester. Wind Ensemble is a "by audition". This class is held as a zero period class before school starts. This group will participate in festivals and perform at concerts during the spring semester.

Students are required to have “concert dress” for performances. Girls’ concert dress entails a long black dress and black shoes. Boys must have a white tuxedo shirt, black bow tie and cummerbund, black tuxedo slacks, black tuxedo jacket, solid black socks and black dress shoes (no athletic shoes).

Percussion Ensemble

During the winter and spring seasons, the Percussion Ensemble (also called Drum line) is a select group of percussionists that competes during the winter and early spring months, approximately December through April. A performance is designed using music and choreography. Marching Band uniforms are not worn. Drum line includes percussion and pit instruments. Try-outs are held in the winter and membership is strictly voluntary. Different uniforms are designed and used for the Percussion Ensemble. These performances are held indoors.

About the Music Boosters...

The Program offers many groups in which students can be involved. These programs are challenging and enriching as well as fun and provide students with many lasting memories. The Instrumental Music Boosters are an active group of parents, grandparents, alumni parents and others that provide many things to the students. **All Parents automatically become Music Boosters upon their child’s participation in any one of these groups!**

The Boosters’ main goal is to work toward making this program as successful and rewarding as possible for the students. They organize and conduct fundraising activities and facilitate supervision for students at all events. Members of the Boosters also travel to events with performing groups to chaperone and assist with uniforms and equipment. Participation in the Rancho Cucamonga Instrumental Music Program is a life-enriching experience for students. Parents are necessary to make it work, and parents who give their time never regret it. The Boosters are extremely proud of each one of these programs. As with any program that is volunteer-based, parent volunteers are required to get involved to make it a success. We have many upcoming activities that we need chaired. Don’t think that just because you are new to the group you don’t have any experience. **Experience is not necessary.**

For more information regarding RCHS Instrumental Music and the Music Boosters, visit our web site www.rchsbands.org. Hopefully, this handbook has answered many of your questions. For any additional questions that you may have throughout the school year, feel free to contact any of the following Booster Board Members.

2010 -2011 Booster Board Members

President	Beth Tanakaya	484.3075	btanakaya@yahoo.com
1 st Vice President	Connie Oktay	437.7802	connieoktay@yahoo.com
2 nd Vice President	Sam Oktay	437.8976	soktay@mdaqmd.ca.gov
Recording Secretary	Varuni Gunewardena	948.0370	chanakag@earthlink.net
Webmaster	Dawn Rhind	463.4712	lodadama@verizon.net
Treasurer	Paul Fisher	463.7149	paul.fisher@cityofrc.us
Accounts Manager	Laurie Simonds	899.2359	simonds4@aol.com
Scrip Chairperson	Rachelle Page	944.9941	pagemom@aol.com
Fundraising Chairperson	Eileen Raines	626.482.4563	leanster73@aol.com
Band Parent (Chaperone Chair)	Eileen Raines	626.482.4563	leanster73@aol.com
Uniform Manager	Open		
Quakes Scheduler	Shirley Massey	948.3810	smassey@carlsonwagonlit.com
New Parent Representative	Cindy Smit	945.2737	clsmit@verizon.net
Color Guard Manager	Terrilyn Walker	260.7175	terrilyterbear@verizon.net
Drum Line Manager	Deanna Anzaldo	841.2859	anzaldofamily@verizon.net
Spring Concert Manager	Open		
Historian	Open		
Alumni Liaison	Open		
Auditor	Open		