**Colts Neck High School**

**Marching Cougar** **Band**

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***2019-2020 Handbook***

Emily Smith, Music Director

Coltsneckmusic.weebly.com

Dear Parents and Students:

Attached are several pages of information regarding band camp, rehearsals, and the fall season. We encourage you to read all of it, even if your student is a returning member. Below, you will find items we wish to emphasize for your convenience. Please do not hesitate to ask questions if you are unsure of anything at any time

**IMPORTANT THINGS TO REMEMBER**

* **BAND CAMP** – Mandatory for all Band Members (August 19-23, 26-30 8:00am-3:00pm)
* **Medical forms** – Medical forms will be distributed on the first day of camp and must be completed by Wednesday August 21, 2019
* **Photo Release Form** – Due Wednesday August 21, 2019
* **Drill Master Shoes** – mandatory for new members, cost is approximately $35
* **Band Shirt –** Band shirts have been delivered, cost TBD
* **Uniforms –** will be assigned prior to the start of our performance season. Take great care of your uniform!
* **Shoes –** Returning members are required to wear black shoes with black laces, with NO white or colored labels. Entirely black shoes for performances. Freshmen and Sophomores will be buying DrillMasters marching shoes to begin the effort to make the band look more uniform in the coming years. It is recommended for returning members to also purchase marching shoes, but not required.
* **Absences and Attendance Policy Form** – accepted reasons for absences during the marching season are: death within the family, wedding, religious obligation, illness or anything approved by Miss Smith. Attendance form is due August 21, 2019
* **Calendar** – attached to this packet is a calendar. This will allow your family enough time to make schedule adjustments when necessary.
* **Remind101** – text the message **@cnmb1** to 81010 to join the CNMB2018 Remind Class. You can also type **https://www.remind.com/join/cnmb1** into your phone’s web browser
* **Be on time to everything!**
	+ To be early is to be on time
	+ To be on time is to be late
	+ To be late is unacceptable!

**Welcome to the 2019**

**Colts Neck Marching Cougars!**

Colts Neck High School

Marching Band Handbook

**The Marching Cougar’s Mission Statement:**

The purpose of the Colts Neck Music program is to build young adults into outstanding citizens by focusing on their character, dedication, passion and desire to succeed. These traits will be built through their practice and performance, and will be used to push the band to the highest level. Students will use these traits to persist through any obstacle, and execute any/all performances or situations with class and consistency.

**Conduct:**

Participation in the Marching Cougars is an honor and a privilege. Each member of the Marching Cougars is expected to:

* Treat everyone with dignity and respect
* ALWAYS strive for your best
* Display a positive and cooperative attitude at all times
* Be a person of integrity
* Lead by example
* Meet the standards you are holding others to
* Strive for excellence without arrogance
* Tolerate honest mistakes from people who are doing their best
* Keep a sense of humor and be able to laugh at yourself!

**General Rules:**

* Be PROMPT! Being on time shows respect for everyone else’s valuable time.
* Smoking, drinking, and use of drugs are inappropriate, unacceptable, and will be dealt with swiftly and severely
* Chewing gum is prohibited in the Band Room and on the practice field
* Individual preparation of music and drill is essential to our success. PRACTICE DAILY ☺
* Wear appropriate style sneakers to all rehearsals – we are MARCHING!
* Always have your music, drill, and a pencil for rehearsals. Please have water for every practice, even in cold weather.
* Cooperation with others makes individuals a group
* Attempt to adjust quickly to unexpected situations
* Show your loyalty to the group in all thatyou say and do
* EARLY IS ON TIME, ON TIME IS LATE, LATE IS UNACCEPTABLE!

**General Band Camp Information for Band Members/Parents:**

In the last two weeks of August, the Marching Band will begin the most vital part of their season; Band Camp. The camp will take place on our very own Colts Neck campus, from 8:00AM – 3:00PM.

Students will need to pack their own lunch for each day of camp, and provide water and sun protection. We will not be outside for the entirety of camp, but prepare as if we will be!

**Attendance Policies:**

Students are required to attend ALL rehearsals and performances. Every member is an integral part of the band. The success of the band depends upon each individual member. In the case of illness, if you are well enough to be in school you are well enough to be at rehearsal.

For a student to be officially excused from a rehearsal or performance, he/she/they must notify Miss Smith and follow correct protocol following the discussion, as soon as they are aware of the conflict. In the case of an emergency, the student must notify Miss Smith when he/she/they return to school. Acceptable excused absences are serious illness/injury, religious obligations, weddings, and the death of a family member.

Two or more absences may result in being pulled from a performance. Students with chronic lateness will be dealt with in a similar manner. Three or more unexcused absences can result in being taken out of the ensemble.

**Rehearsals:**

* Objective: The principal reason for rehearsal is to perfect marching and musical performance. Through this practice comes the learning and improvement of our musical skills. The task of preparing a truly musical performance is not easy and requires concentrated work form everyone, whether it is two months or two days before a performance.
* Warming Up: When you arrive to rehearsal, you should give yourself a few minutes to warm-up on your own. The playing of long tones, scales and lip slurs are the best way to condition yourself for playing. Do not blast, blat, or attempt to use this time for social hour. Warm-up ceases when either Miss Smith, a Drum Major or a staff member steps in front of the ensemble or on the podium.
* Promptness: All students are expected to be in their seats/dot with instruments waiting for instructions at the announced time. For example, an 8am rehearsal does not mean getting out of the car at 8am; it means being in your attendance lines ready to rehearse at 8am.

**Performances:**

 The majority of the Marching Cougars season will be at CNHS football games (both home and away), parades, and occasional festival performances.

**ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY TO ALL PERFORMANCES!**

 Specific schedules for football games and other events will not be known until the week of the event. Please visit the band room to see information on the board.

**Student Leadership**

* Drum Majors: The position of Drum Major is selected by audition only. The Drum Major carries the responsibility of field conducting. The Drum Majors may also assist in the teaching of drill, running a sectional, marching tutoring, checking attendance, and any other duty given by the directors. The Drum Majors act as a liaison between the students and staff.
* Section Leaders: The position of Section Leader is selected by audition only. The Section Leaders assist in relaying important information from staff and Drum Majors to the band. They will also run sectionals and assist in marching tutoring.

**Inclement Weather**

* Do not assume that any rehearsal or performance is cancelled due to weather. If it is possible to rehearse outdoors, we will. Always check with a drum major, section leader, or look for updates from Remind101.

**Uniform Information**

The acquisition of our uniforms was the result of countless hours of work and support from the parents, administrators, and the board of education. These uniforms are of the highest quality and with proper care, will last many years. The wearing of uniforms is a privilege, with that the privilege comes responsibility. The same pride and dedication with which we enter the performance field needs to be reflected in the care of our uniform. Those who do not care for the uniform properly will quickly lose the privilege of wearing it.

* The uniform is to be worn properly at all times
* UNIFORMS ARE TO BE DRY CLEANED ONLY
* Do not alter uniforms in any way
* Wet uniforms must be hung and air-dried
* NO UNIFORM PART SHOULD EVER GO IN THE WASHER OR DRYER

All band members must wear black shoes and black socks at all times. These items should be taken home after an event and brought in for the next performance. For new band members, or those who need shoes, the cost is $35 for musicians.

Replacement cost for individual parts of the uniform is very expensive. Should you damage or lose any portion of the uniform, you will pay for the replacement of it.

SHOES! Freshmen will be **required** to purchase DrillMasters marching shoes. The link for the shoes is on the coltsnecmusic.weebly.com website, and they carry both men’s and women’s sizes.

**CNHS Band Parent Association**

The Colts Neck H.S. Band Parents Association is an active group of parents that support the activities of all the band students of CNHS. **All music parents are required to participate in our association**. Without your support, many important elements of the program would not be possible.

**If your child participates in the Marching Cougars, you or your partner must assist in at least one and ideally two band events per year**. It is imperative for our band’s growth and your child’s overall experience that we have parental support throughout the season. Options for volunteering include chaperoning away games/festivals/parades, selling goods at home games, assisting moving equipment and pit crew. Your cooperation is so greatly appreciated, thank you!