



# CARY HIGH SCHOOL BAND



**Cary, North Carolina**



[www.caryband.org](http://www.caryband.org)

Information Booklet

2017-2018

Matthew Minick, Director

# Welcome To The Cary High School Band!

The Cary Band has a strong tradition as an excellent band that combines outstanding musicianship and pageantry to produce exciting performances. We mix hard work, determination and fun to build memories that will last a lifetime. Band is an academic class at Cary High School.

Students receive academic credit and have the opportunity to earn weighted grades in certain ensembles. Band does require rehearsals and performances outside the regular school year.

## **The Cary Band's Mission:**

**To provide for its members the finest musical experiences that are educational as well as memorable, and to teach life skills through the band medium.**

Being a part of the Cary Band means you will be a part of one of the most outstanding band programs in North Carolina. As a beginning high school student you will start your high school experience knowing over 100 other students before the first day of school! This is a guide book to help new band members and their families begin this journey with the Cary Band. It should make the first few days in band a little easier in terms of language, what to expect, and how to prepare.

## **The Cary Band Provides Many Opportunities**

- Marching band, includes Musicians and Color Guard
- Concert Band
- Symphonic Band
- Jazz Ensemble
- Winter Guard
- Winter Drum Line
- Honors Bands; All-District and All-State Honors Band

The vast majority of the Band are members of the Marching Band, so much of this booklet focuses on that aspect of the band program.

## **Band Classes at Cary High School**

Band is an important and diverse part of the curriculum at Cary High School. Band students register for and enroll in the following band classes: Fall- Concert band for all 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders. Symphonic Band for all 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders. Regardless of whether or not you participate in marching band, these are the two fall band classes, with the exception of marching percussion that register for percussion ensemble in the fall. Spring- Symphonic band, Concert Band, Jazz Ensemble. The two fall classes focus on basic musicianship and music reading skills appropriate for the age level of its members. The spring symphonic band and concert band continue to foster basic musicianship skills and prepare music for concert band festivals, a spring concert and usually a pops concert. The jazz ensemble focuses on basic musicianship as well as

the history and music of the Jazz idiom. Members of the **Color Guard** who do not play a band instrument, register for the marching band percussion class in the fall, and take other electives in the spring. The symphonic band and jazz ensemble classes are placed by an audition. Concert band and marching band are open to anyone willing to put forth the effort required. Listed below is a table of the class course numbers as they were this year. This should assist you in what to register for, although as a disclaimer we must say that these numbers can change. We encourage all members to take band both semesters.

## **Band Courses at Cary High School**

**Fall:** Instrumental Music: Band Beginning 52552X0A, sign –up for this class if you want band in the fall. Freshmen take this class regardless of whether or not they do marching band. 52552X0AF is for fall marching percussion and guard.

### **Spring:**

Concert Band (Freshmen) Instrumental Music: Band Intermediate 52562X0A  
Symphonic Band (Freshmen not eligible)  
Jazz Ensemble (Freshmen not eligible)

**These are the courses offered at Cary HS and should line up with the printed catalog and course offerings. Please note that if a student wants to be in band and has not registered please contact the director. This can be easily fixed at any point before school starts or within the first 10 days of school.**

## **The Cary Band Year**

Three distinct phases make up the band year.

- Summer Rehearsals and Band Camp
- Marching Season
- Concert Season and Winter programs

### **Summer Rehearsals and Band Camp**

Your Band journey begins with either a color guard mini-camp or spring practice. Spring practice is for new instrumental band members and is designed to be an introduction of our marching style, color guard fundamentals and life in high school band. It is a chance for new members to meet current members and make some friends so that band camp won't be such an unknown. **Spring practice** will be May 8<sup>th</sup> at Cary HS from 6:30 to 8pm. All interested members attend. **Rookie Camp** is two rehearsals focused on teaching new members fundamentals that will help them be prepared for band camp. This will be June 12<sup>th</sup> -and 13<sup>th</sup> from 6pm-830pm. Summer rehearsals for the entire band are held once weekly leading up to band camp. These rehearsals are required with the understanding that people will be out of town on vacations. The rule is; come if you are in town. These rehearsals are fun and exciting for the members

because they learn what the show music and design is all about. Band Camp and all other rehearsals are held at Cary HS.

### 2017 Important Dates

**February 21<sup>st</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> grade Band Grade Orientation @ Cary High  
(In band room) 7pm**

**May 8th 6:30-8 pm @ CHS Spring Practice- Including new members**

**June 12-13<sup>th</sup> 6-830pm Rookie Camp...all new members**

**June 22, 29, July 20, 27- Summer rehearsal 6-8:30 pm (if you are in town)**

**July 31<sup>st</sup> through August 11<sup>th</sup> at Cary High School (BAND CAMP)**

**August 18<sup>th</sup>-first football game/performance**

**August 26<sup>th</sup>- Performance at Lazy Daze, followed by afternoon/evening rehearsal**

Typical **Band Camp** days involve marching rehearsals in the relative cool of the mornings and musical rehearsals in doors in the heat of the afternoon and then more marching or learning drill in the evening. The day always begins with the full band stretching together and then sections divide up and go with highly qualified instructors. Parents are encouraged to volunteer to help out at band camp. Parents are needed to offer support cold cloths, water and ice and whatever is necessary to help the kids be successful. You can contact Crystal Sigmon at [operation\\_fall@caryband.org](mailto:operation_fall@caryband.org) to volunteer your time. **Band camp is required for participation in marching band.**

Typically at the end of band camp each year the band does a presentation of what they have learned at band camp for parents, families and friends. This happens on the last Friday night of band camp. .

## Preparing for Band Camp

**Before Band Camp**, band members are encouraged to:

- Build stamina by walking before mid-July.
- Get used to the heat by spending time outside during the day.
- Begin drinking additional water to keep hydrated In the heat.

**During Band Camp:**

- Drink plenty of water every evening, and each day before during and after practice. If you feel thirsty, then you may already be dehydrated.
- Eat good meals
- Get a good nights sleep
- ALWAYS eat a good breakfast



- **Be on time for Practice!** At 8am you must be in the warm-up block ready to go-not just arriving.
- Wear a hat and/or sunglasses and light colored and lightweight clothing.
- WEAR SUNSCREEN EVERY DAY! It is most effective when applied before practice begins.
- Wear shoes that are comfortable and that provide support. You will be marching forward and backward on the pavement. Don't break in new shoes at camp. Your shoes may end up with spray paint on them from learning drill. Do not wear sandals or flip-flops or go barefoot!
- Bring your own water jug/cooler each day. Drink lots
- Drink your own water. Never drink after each other.
- Bring and eat a nutritious lunch.
- Have a good time learning the music and the show!

## Marching Season

The band develops a single show for the marching season. Shows may consist of three to five parts. As each section is learned they are "put on the field" as rehearsals and the season progress. It is always "a work in progress" and will evolve throughout the season. Each year the staff designs a **show shirt** to represent the season's show. The Cary Band Boosters provide all members with a show shirt, which becomes what we call our **summer uniform** for the season. Additional shirts can be purchased by families and friends.

Marching Band competitions begin in late September and continue through November. The band has regular rehearsals after school on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 3:30 to 5:45. The band also rehearses on Saturdays that they have competitions.

### ***Football Games at Cary High***

The band performs at all home varsity football games during the season. The band plays the National Anthem at the start of the game, plays pep songs during the game, and performs the competitive show at half-time. Occasionally we will travel to local away games and playoffs with a pep band made up of volunteers.

### ***Marching Competitions***

The band attends competitions at local, regional and national levels. Different competitions divide their competitions in classes based on band size or in some cases school enrollment. Most of our local competitions are judge on a criteria established by the **North Carolina Bandmasters Association (NCBA)**. The criteria at national competitions such as **Band's of America (BOA)** differ slightly from those used at our state competitions, but they are generally very similar.

### **Local Competitions**

The directors will determine which competitions the band attends. There are many band competitions held by other schools in a driving radius of one to two hours driving time that we attend. Competitions are held on Saturdays starting late in September. The band travels on charter busses and school busses depending on how far we are traveling. Depending on the timing of the trip the boosters provide food and beverages to the members. On a typical Saturday the kids will bring their lunch and be fed the rest of the day by the band parents.

### **Overnight Trips**

Trips to BOA shows and other places further away require us to stay overnight. These trips would generally last from Friday night through Sunday. Depending on circumstances we use several different housing arrangements. Sometimes we stay in other schools to save money. It is also easier to supervise students that are all together in a gymnasium as opposed to multiple motel rooms. On some trips we stay in motels. It is important to always remember that we represent not only ourselves but the band program, Cary High School and our community. Parents have the opportunity sign up as chaperones and helpers for all trips.

### **What to Expect and Etiquette at Competitions**

Band competitions are festive occasions full of color and sound. Family members usually wear their **Cary Band Green Stuff** and sit together to support the band during competitions. Spectators should **not** enter or leave the stadium while any band is performing. Applause and cheering for bands is appropriate and encouraged. Talk during performances should be limited during the performance. Remember we are there to support the hard work and effort of all competing bands. The stands, concession areas and other gathering places are crowded and you never know whose parent or friend you are standing next to. Please be positive and watch what you say. Be proud of what our kids do and not negative towards others. Admission to local contests ranges from \$5 to \$10. Things you may want to bring include; seat cushion, camera, poncho, binoculars, pen or pencil to record results. Some venues prohibit umbrellas and backpacks. Be prepared.

### **Concert Season**

The band's annually hold a holiday concert sometime in December featuring some sacred and some secular music. During the winter bands prepare for our annual NCBA district concert band festival. It depends on the instrumentation and make-up of each group as to whether or not they will participate in festival each year. This decision is made by the director. Bands at festival perform for three adjudicators and sight read for a rating. Ratings range from superior to excellent and on down. Band parents help provide chaperones for these events. The performances are free and open to the public. The band's usually give two other concerts in the spring. A spring concert and a pop's concert made up of usually less serious works. On occasion we will give joint concerts with the strings and choir departments as well as hosting concerts in special locations such as Meymandi Hall and Koka Booth Amphitheatre.

## Financial Matters, Band Fees and Fundraising

The quality band program we have come to expect from Cary High School cost money. The band receives very minimal financial support from the Wake County School System- \$1,000 a year for repairs and around \$850 from the school for music. The band booster club and members of the band provide the necessary funds to support the Band's activities. The entire band benefits from these funds which are used to pay for things such as sheet music, instruments, and instrument repair, other equipment, uniforms, instruction, and other administrative support. In addition, the funds help pay for contests, performance venues, food lodging entry fees, registrations, scholarships, and transportation.

The band **assessment** is set each year by the director and the band booster club board, as a part of our budget process each year. Fees over the past eleven years have ranged from \$900 to \$1,100 depending on what the band was doing each year, what contest we are going to and/ or where we are traveling to. This fee is only for marching band. There is a fee for using a school-owned instrument. This year the fee was a nominal \$30. It helps cover costs of maintenance and repair on these very expensive instruments. This fee is comparable to most bands in the area, when you compare that this amount includes everything we do, such as; band camp, t-shirt, transportation, uniform, meals on the road, instruction etc. The only thing not included is shoes.

We count on each family to pay their band assessment, either by paying outright or fundraising. A \$75 non-refundable deposit is due by June 1st to secure your position in the group. This will secure for the staff how many actual marching members we need to write for. A payment of \$200 is due at band camp. This is all a part of your actual assessment, not in addition to. You have multiple opportunities to fundraise the money through the Band booster club. Many parents have never actually paid money out of pocket for their child to participate. They have simply participated in the fundraising opportunities available and were able to work it all off. For all to reap the benefits of being in this excellent program, everyone needs to help out with fundraising events. These are described later in the fundraising section of the Cary Band Booster Club.



## **CARY BAND BOOSTERS CLUB**

### **Mission Statement:**

The Cary Band Boosters is a legally incorporated non-profit organization, organized to support the Cary High School Band and its Directors in musical education and enjoyment. The purposes of this Club are to:

- (1) promote means and opportunities for the education of the public with respect to the study and culture of instrumental music and the enjoyment and wholesome utilization thereof,
- (2) solicit, collect, and otherwise handle and dispose of funds in the promotion of the activities of the Cary High School Band (with the advice and counsel from the Band Director and School Principal),
- (3) assist the public within the Cary area in promoting and developing an outstanding music education program, and
- (4) seek the cooperation of other organizations and groups in the Cary area in promoting Cary Band Day.

### **Membership:**

Parents of all the band students make up the membership of this organization and manage the logistic problems of transporting equipment, instruments, and students to competitions. Volunteer parents also sew all of the Band's flags, capes, sashes as well as design and make the necessary props each year. They make and serve dinner to the entire Band and staff during Band Camp, and provide sports drinks, water, snacks, and meals during home performances or away competitions. In their spare time, they line the practice fields, issue and inspect all uniforms, shoes, and ditty bags, pack the trailer, load the uniforms, chaperone the buses, supply medical assistance, transport the pit equipment on the field at competitions, and much, much more. In addition, they contribute countless hours of fund raising to help the Band meet expenses.

### **The Band Booster Board**

The Band boosters organization annually elects a board of directors which includes the following positions:

- President- Greg Kraus, [president@caryband.org](mailto:president@caryband.org)
- Vice-president Ways and Means, Cindy Brann, [way\\_and\\_means@caryband.org](mailto:way_and_means@caryband.org)
- Vice- President Operations Summer Fall, Crystal Sigmon, [operations\\_fall@caryband.org](mailto:operations_fall@caryband.org)
- Treasurers-Susan Tilley, Leonard Collins, Doug Brann [treasurers@caryband.org](mailto:treasurers@caryband.org)
- Corresponding Secretary- Kris Loomis, [corresponding\\_secretary@caryband.org](mailto:corresponding_secretary@caryband.org)



- Recording Secretary- Kim Shorb, [recording\\_secretary@caryband.org](mailto:recording_secretary@caryband.org)

These people have chosen to serve but really their job is to delegate to the general membership. Please do not hesitate to ask them how you can help and ask them for information since they have been a part of the organization for a while, they can usually be a big help.

## **Fund Raising**

We count on each family to pay assessments and help the band raise money to support the over all program. Most of our fund raising efforts are geared towards helping members pay their assessments, while others go to support the General Fund. General fund money is used to support the entire program. It covers general operating and administrative expenses, and helps bring down the assessments for programs such as the marching band, and winter programs.

## **Seasonal Fundraisers**

The boosters hold several fundraising events each year. Planned events for this coming year will include:

- Citipass Coupon Books (Band Camp through September)
- Yankee Candles (September- October)
- Fruit and nut sales (October-November)
- Poinsettias (Nov- Dec)
- Chocolate Bars, Mattress Sale (Feb. April)

## **Event Fundraisers**

These events are great fund raisers for people to participate in because you make money towards your assessment without having to sell something door to door. We sell concession at these events and earn money based on a commission we receive. We are well known for our excellent staffing and service. Some events do involve selling alcohol but not all. Some alcohol awareness training is required but is offered regularly. We take our responsibility about alcohol sales very seriously. Ask people involved about these events. They are easy and can even be fun.

- Alltel Pavilion Concerts (May-September)
- RBC Center- Hockey Games, NC State Basketball Games, some special events (October- May)
- Event One- Parking and ushering at NC State Football games (fall)

## Year- 'Round Fundraisers

Several on-going fundraisers help the band.

- “Dine-out-nights”- Local area business donate percentages of an evenings receipts to the band designated a dine-out night. Usually a Tuesday night after a band booster meeting the previous Monday. Sometimes a downloadable coupon is required, which is posted on the web-site under fundraisers. Past restaurants have included; The Loop, Hurricane Wings, Gypsy’s Shiny Diner, Chili’s, and others.
- Grocery Cards-
- Lowes Food’s donates 6% of \$100 grocery cards and Food Lion donates 5% of \$100 gift cards. These cost you nothing, so by buying your normal groceries you help support the band.

## Where Can You Help?

There are many opportunities to be involved with the Cary Band Booster Club. We call them opportunities for a reason. One of the unique qualities of our organization is that it provides you the parent a chance to be involved in an activity with your child. You can be around and be a part without being too invasive which is important to teenagers. We have found that they want you to be there. They may not want you on their bus or sitting next to them, but they like the fact that you are there. The two largest sections of the booster club are called **Operations** and **Ways and Means**. Operations handle the general logistics of the band. It takes quite a bit of support for the band to get anywhere and do anything.

### Operations Handles

- Travel arrangements
- Feeding the band
- Pit crew
- Props crew
- Flag making
- Uniforms
- Truck driving
- Truck and golf cart maintenance
- Safety crew
- Banquet

Somewhere in this list of things that people do we can use your help.

## Ways and Means

Ways and means is the fundraising portion of the band program. All of these fundraisers cannot be handled by one person. [Cindy Brann](#) handles ways and means this year and can use your help in taking charge of any of the specific fund raisers or being on a committee that handles them ([ways\\_and\\_means@caryband.org](mailto:ways_and_means@caryband.org)).

## Band Vocabulary

**Assessment** is the term used to describe the band fees associated with the marching band. It is determined as a part of the Band Booster Club budget each year.

**Band Banquet and Awards** are held every spring to honor all band members for their accomplishments during the school year. This is a final farewell to our graduating seniors and the end of the year video is presented.

**Band Classes** at Cary HS include Concert band, Symphonic Band, Jazz Ensemble, Marching Band. Symphonic Band and Jazz Ensemble require an audition and are not open to freshmen by our current scheduling with the 9<sup>th</sup> grade center.

**Band Office phone** is 919-460-3549 extension 21818

**Band Day** is how we refer to our annual band competition and parade held at Cary High School near the end of the fall season. It is an annual community event as well as our largest fundraiser. All band family members are needed to help run this historic event. This past year was the 48<sup>th</sup> annual Cary Band Day.

**Band's of America** (BOA) is a private organization that provides opportunities for performance, learning and excellence through music education. It holds regional events each year for marching bands and Grand Nationals each year in Indianapolis Indiana. They also sponsor a very fine summer music camp called the Summer Symposium for high school students. See more at [www.bands.org](http://www.bands.org).

**Color Guard** is an ensemble of students utilizing flags, rifles, sabers and other equipment to provide visual enhancement of the music played by the musicians. Students audition annually to be a part of the group. Guard members are considered a part of the marching band. See also Winter Guard.

**District Band** is a group students can audition for sponsored by the central district band masters association. Placing high enough in this ensemble can lead to eligibility to audition for NC Honors Band.

**Drum Major** is the student leader chosen by audition to conduct the band and serve as its highest ranking student leader.

**Graduation Band** is a group of band members every year that perform for graduation events including, senior night, senior awards and graduation. The group

performs with the strings. Performing with this group also serves as a credit towards a letter.

**Green Stuff** refers to the green attire sold by the band booster parents that parents and supporters wear. It includes golf shirts, t-shirts, sweatshirts, hats and jackets.

**Honors Band** is sponsored by the North Carolina Band Masters Association. Students are eligible to audition based on district band placement. See [www.ncbandmasters.org](http://www.ncbandmasters.org).

**Marching Band.** Students in the CHS band program do not have to participate in marching band. Nonetheless, the marching band attracts the vast majority of band students. The marching band is composed of the **musicians** and the **color guard**. It brings excitement to the football field in a treat for the senses combining music with other performing arts. This group performs at football games and competitions. The **Pit** consists of those musicians that play the stationary instruments in front of the field and do not march during the performances.

**Pit Crew** is a group of dedicated parents who transport the Pit instruments and props to and from each performance as well as on and off the field. The pit crew also transports the larger instruments to concerts.

**Money Box** is for payments and correspondence to the treasurer and is inside the door of Mr. Minick's office. Money for almost anything can be turned in there. Please put in a small envelope and label who it is from and what it is for to eliminate any confusion. For almost everything we do checks should be made out to Cary Band Booster Club.

**Rookie Camp** is a two day event for all new members on June 12 and 13<sup>th</sup> from 8 am until noon. Members learn marching basics and musical exercises. They get individual attention from staff members in addition to the chance to get know fellow band members.

**Spring Practice** is a practice held in the spring for returning members and new members. It is not required but highly encouraged. We teach a few basics of playing and marching and give new members a chance to see what things are like so they are not so intimidated.

**Show Shirt or Band Tee Shirt.** The Cary Band Boosters provides each band member with a show shirt designed based on the theme of the competition show. Show shirts are worn to show pride in the band and as a casual uniform as necessary. Family members and students can purchase additional shirts at reasonable prices. These are great for competitions!

**Summer Uniform.** These are uniforms used by the marching band members for more casual performances held earlier in the marching band season. Each student will wear the Band Tee Shirt they have been issued, black knee-length shorts, (not gym shorts) and mostly white tennis-shoes. The shorts and shoes will not be provided by the band boosters. These uniforms allow the band to perform in hot weather yet still have the classy uniform look we are accustomed to.

**Uniforms.** Each band member will be assigned a uniform that will need to be altered to fit them. Uniforms are cleaned at home and returned to the school where they remain until the next use. Each student is responsible for returning each part of their uniform to the garment bag and placing the bag on the garment racks. The uniform includes accessories, gloves, gauntlets, shoes and socks. Band hats and plumes are kept in separate boxes.

**USSBA.** United States Scholastic Band Association is an organization similar to Band's of America that sponsors events across the U.S. They have regional competitions and a national event in which we have participated

**Winter Drum line** is a program like that of the guard that allows percussionist to perform throughout the winter. They perform at shows on the local regional and national level indoors on gym floors similar to that of the winter guard. Students are not required to participate although there are members that play other instruments that perform with the winter drum line as well. Additional fees do apply for participation.

**Winter Guard.** This is a post-marching-season activity for color guard members held during the winter/spring semesters, December-April. The winter guard competes against other color guards on a state, regional, and international level. The guard learns a new show routine that is performed to an artist's recorded music instead of the band. They perform on a tarp in gymnasiums. Color guard members are not required to participate in Winter Guard. Anyone is eligible to join, even if they did not participate in Color Guard during marching band season. This is an excellent opportunity for guard members to strengthen their dance movement and equipment skills. There are additional fees assessed and other fundraising for participation in the Winter Guard season. *See also Color Guard.*

**Winter Programs** include the winter guard and winter drum line. These are programs that allow students to continue to excel in their particular discipline and therefore benefits the band program as a whole.

