

Cheshire High School  
Marching Ram Band

# Handbook

2011 – 2012



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In the event of any conflict between this Handbook and "The Unofficial Handbook for New Band Parents", the provisions of this Handbook will prevail.

## Section 1: A Brief History Of The Marching Ram Band

In 1970, Raymond Mancinelli joined the faculty at Cheshire High School as a music teacher and band director. For thirteen years under his leadership, young high school musicians became an active marching band traveling to events such as New Haven's St. Patrick's Day Parade and the Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington DC.

In the 1984 season, the Marching Ram Band entered its first field show competition as a Class IV Band in the Eastern Marching Band Association and placed sixth in their first Championship. Four short years later in 1988, the Class V Marching Ram Band won its first EMBA Championship with an outstanding score of 98.25 - the highest score ever achieved in EMBA to date, and a score that wouldn't be matched until 1992. Over the years, Cheshire developed a reputation of overall excellence, exciting visuals and innovative shows.

Tom Scavone assumed the reins of the Ram Band in 1994. The shows produced under his guidance were both exceptional in musicality and memorable in content. The challenge of bringing provocative music to life on the field is now the hallmark of the Cheshire High School Marching Ram Band.

In late 1996, the Marching Ram Band was given the honor of representing the State of Connecticut in the 53<sup>rd</sup> Presidential Inaugural Parade in January 1997. Thus began a sequence of major appearances that catapulted the Ram Band to national and even international recognition. On January 1, 1999 the Ram Band marched in the 110<sup>th</sup> Annual Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, CA before a live audience of more than one million persons and a television audience estimated to exceed 400 million. A mere two years later, in November 2000, the Ram Band marched down Broadway in the 74<sup>th</sup> Annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. Throughout the period of these national appearances the Ram Band continued its success as a competitive field show band. The 1998 season featured the music of John Williams and the Ram Band won the Group 4A USSBA Championships at Giants Stadium. The sights and sounds of Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana* came the following season along with the Class 4 Open USSBA Championship. In the 2000 season, the mystique and music of *Cirque du Soleil* provided the foundation of the Ram Band's field show. The season culminated in a third place finish at Championships.

The 2001 season marked the arrival of John Kuhner as Band Director. Under Mr. Kuhner's direction, the Ram Band has performed the field shows *Heroic Journey* (2001), earning its third USSBA Championship, *First Flight* (2002), earning its fourth USSBA Championship, and *Dance Portraits* (2003) earning a second place award at USSBA Championships and a first place award at USSBA New England Championships, and *The Storm* (2004) earning a second place award at USSBA Championships and a first place award at USSBA New England Championships. *Dimensions of Time*, (2005) earned a first place at USSBA Championships and second place at New England USSBA Championships. *Snapshots* (2006) earned a first place at USSBA Group V All States Championships, and the 2007 Outback Bowl Champion Grand Champion Award. *Buggin Out* (2009) earned first place at every competition, including the USSBA Northern States Championship. *Ping!* (2010) earned a second place at New England USSBA Championships, first at the MAC Championships.

## Section 2: Travel Information

Return times listed on the schedule are "best estimates" based on previous years. Prior to the band's departure from a competition, the Band Director will place a call to the Music Department answering machine with a more accurate arrival time. Parents are advised to call the Band Office one hour before the "scheduled" arrival time for an updated arrival time.

**Music Department: 250-2534**



## Section 3: Stay Informed

Where can you find the latest Marching Band information?

- ♪ Read the Band Room bulletin board
- ♪ Visit our website: [www.ramband.com](http://www.ramband.com)
- ♪ Visit our website: [www.Charmsoffice.com](http://www.Charmsoffice.com)
- ♪ Get on the CHSBPA email list. Send yours to [secretary@ramband.com](mailto:secretary@ramband.com). Keep it up to date.

## Section 4: Calendar

The Music Department Calendar can be found at [www.ramband.com](http://www.ramband.com). Everyone should consult it often as changes are sometimes made upon very short notice.

## **Section 5: Marching Ram Band Organization:**

### **5.1 Student Leadership**

#### **1. Officer Elections:**

Elections are held each May to elect officers for the next school year. Please consult the Calendar for the correct date. A student must be nominated and seconded for their name to be placed on the ballot. A student may accept the nomination for one office. Once the nomination process is complete the nominees are expected to prepare a speech and take questions from the Orchestra and Band before the election. A run-off election is required if no single candidate receives a simple majority of the votes.

#### **2. Marching Band Instructional Positions:**

The Director appoints Section Leaders, Color Guard Captains, and Drum Majors. Any Marching Ram Band member may apply and audition for a Marching Band leadership position. Students must show mastery of musical knowledge, and must distinguish themselves as responsible and effective leaders by positive example.

All Marching Ram Band Section Leaders, Color Guard Captains, and Drum Majors are encouraged to attend a Marching Band Leadership Training Conference held during the summer. The students will learn valuable leadership principles and will also refine their conducting and marching technique at these exciting conferences/camps. This conference/camp experience is open to all band members who wish to attend. Information and details are available from the Director.

As student leaders, Section Leaders, Color Guard Captains, and Drum Major are expected to lead by example. This includes working with peers to foster a positive atmosphere in order to achieve excellence at all times. All student leaders must be familiar with every individual student's drill assignments and music in order to effectively assist in rehearsals.

#### **3. Drum Major:**

The Marching Ram Band is led by Drum Majors. Drum Majors lead the ensemble in all performances and conduct rehearsals. This position is open to all junior and senior Marching Ram Band members. A Drum Major must demonstrate superior ability in the following areas: musicianship, conducting skills, and marching skills. Also, a Drum Major must consistently show that he/she is an exemplary leader in every way. Drum Majors must coordinate Section Leader and Color Guard Captain rehearsal objectives at a meeting before and/or after every rehearsal.

**4. Section Leaders and Color Guard Captain:**

Each section is led by students who demonstrate superior ability in the following areas: musicianship, marching skills, silk/rifle equipment technique, and leadership skills. This position is open to all sophomore, junior and senior Marching Band members. Section Leaders and Captains must coordinate rehearsal objectives at a meeting before and/or after every rehearsal.

## Section 6: Student and BPA Expenses

### 6.1 Family Membership Dues:

As explained elsewhere in this Handbook, the CHS Band Parents' Association or as it is commonly known, the BPA, is a membership organization that supports the Band. Everyone is strongly encouraged to join. The Annual Membership Dues are \$425 for a family with one child in the Band. The cost for each additional child in the band is \$190. A substantial portion of the Dues may be offset by the sale of advertisements in the Music In Motion Program Book.

Membership Dues are a critical component of the BPA's fundraising efforts and enable the BPA to provide a variety of program services including music, marching and colorguard instruction; visuals and properties; scholarships; medical supplies; equipment; food and refreshments; student and parent parties and picnics; and other general expenses.

Membership Dues are to be paid in full by September 15th.

### 6.2 Required Program Expenses:

(not covered by Family Membership Dues)

|                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Woodwinds, Brass, Percussion:</b> | Black Band Shoes - approximately \$35.  |
| <b>Woodwinds &amp; Brass:</b>        | Nylon Gloves – approximately \$5.   |
| <b>Percussion:</b>                   | Mallets – approximately \$35.   |
| <b>Drum Majors and Color Guard:</b>  | Outfit / uniform – approximately \$125.   |
| <b>Drum Majors:</b>                  | Performance footwear  |
| <b>Color Guard:</b>                  | Performance footwear, gloves, makeup, performance undergarment(s)   |
| <b>Miscellaneous:</b>                | Garment bag for uniform   |
| <b>Official T-shirts:</b>            | Approximately \$15.   |
| <b>Dry Cleaning:</b>                 | Each Band Member will be responsible for the expense of dry cleaning his or her band uniform pants as often as the same may be necessary. |

### 6.3 Other Expenses:

**Thermal Underwear:** Not required, however, recommended for those cold competition nights. Regular thermal underwear may be worn under the uniform. JEANS OR SWEAT PANTS MAY NEVER BE WORN UNDER THE UNIFORM.

**Band Banquet:** Band Members of families in good standing with the BPA and Roadies attend without charge. Parents and family members are required to pay.

**Band Jacket:** The band's official jacket is a red jacket with the CHSMRB's Ram Head on the back. Students and parents may purchase these jackets. The approved local vendor for the jacket will have samples at the Family Picnic during Band Camp. They will do fittings and take orders at that time. In order to promote uniformity and team camaraderie, if a Band jacket (not required) is going to be worn at any public performance or competition, only the official band jacket (see below) may be worn. No "sectional" or other non-official jackets may be worn.



## Section 7: General Requirements

### 7.1 General

- ♪ All students must be scheduled for Concert Band, Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble, Orchestra or the Eurhythmics (Color Guard) class.
- ♪ Students will perform academically per the 'C' rule.
- ♪ Provisions of the “Guide to the Cheshire High School Music Department” apply to the participants in the Marching Ram Band.

### 7.2 Physicals:

- ♪ A school physician will perform a sports physical. Students must either attend this or show proof that they have had a doctor’s physical for the upcoming school year. Incoming sophomores will be excluded from this requirement by providing a copy of the physical required of them by the Board of Education.

**This is a requirement for participation in Marching Band.**

- ♪ The Band Parents' Association will supply a medical form, which must be filled out by a student's parent or guardian and signed before a notary public. Since this form is confidential, it will only be carried by the chaperones on band trips.

## Section 8: Student Behavior and Conduct

### 8.1 *Code of Behavior:*

It is an honor to be able to represent Cheshire High School in performances and events across the Northeast and the nation. Appropriate behavior is expected by all students while representing Cheshire High School. This includes good sportsmanship, as well as appropriate language and decorum. Public displays of affection are not acceptable.

All of Cheshire High School policies outlined in the Cheshire Public School Handbook and the Permission Form for Music Department Activities will be enforced. Please refer to the Board of Education's policies.

**Students will be required to sign a Band behavior contract.**

### 8.2 *Attendance:*

It is important for every student to attend all rehearsals and performances throughout the year. Each student plays a very important role in the program and is missed when he/she is not at rehearsal.

Absences and/or tardiness due to illness and emergency are the only absences or tardiness that will be excused the day of a performance or rehearsal. Students should call the Music Department @ 250-2534 and leave a detailed message. All other absences and/or anticipated tardiness must be reported to Mr. Kuhner in writing at least **one month** prior to the performance or dress rehearsal, and at least **one week** prior to a regular rehearsal. The Excuse Form for Instrumental Music Events is located outside the Band Room Office. Mr. Kuhner will decide if the absence or tardy is excusable and the student will receive written confirmation of his/her request. All material covered at the missed rehearsal must be made up. The student must make an appointment with Mr. Kuhner within one week of the missed rehearsal in order to play the missed material for a grade. Students may perform this music live or submit a recording on cassette tape. **Absences and/or tardiness due to work are never excused.**

The maximum number of excused absences and/or tardiness accepted per marking period is 2 rehearsals and 1 performance. Any absence/tardy over and above this limit will be considered unexcused. The student's grade will be lowered accordingly for all unexcused absences and tardiness. Please refer to the Grading Procedure for more details.

If a conflict arises, i.e.: school activity or sports commitment, contact Mr. Kuhner immediately to work out an acceptable schedule.

### **8.3 Rehearsal and Performance Procedures:**

Every student should bring instruments, pencil, music, music folder or flip folder, drill charts, set pads and other proper equipment and appropriate rehearsal attire to every rehearsal and performance.

There will be no individual playing before, after or during a rehearsal in the hallways or outside unless otherwise directed by Mr. Kuhner. Warm-up will be performed in unison under the direction of the Director, Drum Majors, Section Leaders or Color Guard Captains.

It is important that a professional atmosphere is maintained throughout the entire rehearsal with a minimum of distractions, i.e. no talking, no hats/caps, no chewing gum etc. Each student should arrive to rehearsal on time. Be in your seat or in formation before the start of rehearsal.

Excellent posture and basic breathing and instrument carriage is important to maintain during the entire warm-up and rehearsal.

Upon entering the Band Room, please be sure to read posted announcements. Please keep the Band Room clean and orderly. Put all of your equipment away in the proper storage areas. If you see trash on the floor, please pick it up. You can make a positive difference by setting the example.

### **8.4 Marching Ram Band Uniform Policy:**

This information is designed to help guide you through the uniform policy for The Cheshire High School Marching Ram Band.

When you are wearing your uniform, you are representing all of the young men and women who were a part of the CHS Marching Ram Band and Cheshire High School for many years. You should feel proud to wear the uniform, as it represents glory, tears, hard work and continued excellence. You should always remember that the alumni who marched before you wore the CHSMRB uniform with honor and pride.

#### **8.4.1 Your Conduct In Uniform:**

- ♪ You should not eat or drink (except water) in uniform. Accidents will occur unexpectedly that may dirty, stain or permanently damage your uniform.
- ♪ You should not run in uniform, as it is out of character and shows lack of respect for the uniform.
- ♪ You should not lean or sit on anything in uniform, unless instructed to do so.

- ♪ Appropriate language and behavior is expected while in uniform. Inappropriate language and/or behavior are disrespectful to the uniform and the beliefs of the CHS Marching Ram Band.

**REMEMBER** -- while in uniform, **YOU REPRESENT CHS AND YOURSELF**. If in doubt as to whether you should or should not do something -- **DO NOT DO IT**. You will eventually get a sense of what is appropriate behavior in uniform.

#### 8.4.2 Your Appearance In Uniform:

Ladies: Hair must be braided, pinned up so that no hair is showing outside your shako. Makeup should be worn in moderation.

Gentlemen: Hair should be neatly trimmed. No hair should touch the top of your ears or the collar of your jacket.

- ♪ No jewelry, including watches, neckpieces, bracelets, earrings, etc. may be worn while in uniform. A religious pendant such as a Cross, Star of David, etc. may be worn on a chain, but it should not be visible outside of the uniform. Proper undergarments should be worn. These items include long black socks (without any designs) and the Fall Show T-shirt.

- ♪ Your shako should be worn straight on your head. You should be able to fit two fingers between the brim of the shako and the bridge of your nose, flat on top, and right above your eyes.

- ♪ When in full uniform, Jackets must be buttoned.

#### 8.4.3 Care of the Uniform:

- ♪ After a performance, your uniform must be put on hangers with creases of pants in proper alignment. Your uniform jacket and pants should be put into your garment bag, zippered and hung up. If your uniform is wet, from perspiration, rain, or water, you should not zipper the garment bag but allow it to dry after placing them properly on their hanger.

- ♪ Please notify Band Quartermaster or your chaperone if you have a stain on your uniform so that it can be sent out and cleaned before the next performance. If your uniform needs to be sent out separately, other than a regular scheduled cleaning, you will be responsible for the charge. Students are responsible for the total cost of repair or replacement of the uniform if it is damaged or lost. Uniform Jackets will be cleaned as needed throughout the school year. Dry cleaning of band uniform pants is the responsibility of the Band Member and must be done as needed or when required by the Band Director.

Be mindful of one important rule:  
**ALWAYS LOOK GOOD AND ACT ACCORDINGLY!**

#### **8.4.4 General Guidelines for Uniforms:**

- ♪ Students will return the uniform in the same condition that it was received.
- ♪ Repair of damage due to carelessness will be the responsibility of the student. Repairs must be professionally performed after consultation with the Director.
- ♪ Fitting will be done during the Preseason. Slight alterations to pants and sleeve length can be made; however, no material may be cut for any reason, and no tape may be used to secure any hem. Alterations are the responsibility of the student.
- ♪ Uniforms pants are to be carried to and from performances in a garment bag.





## **Section 9: Music Policies and Procedures**

### **9.1 *The Music Library:***

The Music Library consists of original works, transcriptions, and arrangements for orchestra, band, marching band, jazz ensemble, pep band, small ensemble pieces, solos, and recordings. Students may check out any music provided the proper procedure is followed.

Completely fill out and return the Music Loan Form to the respective Director for processing. The Director will issue the music to the student with a due date for return. Please return the music, on or before the due date, to the Director.

#### **9.1.1 Use and Care of Music, Music Folders and Flip Folders:**

Please do not fold, tear or mutilate music. Store music in a music folder. Folders may be stored in the instrument storage cabinets. Avoid putting music and/or folders in instrument cases. Only use pencil when marking music. Students will be responsible for the replacement cost of the piece of music or folder borrowed if it is damaged or lost.

### **9.2 *School Instruments:***

The Music Department has a limited supply of instruments for use by students who do not own their own instruments. An Instrument Loan Form must be filled out completely, signed, and returned before an instrument will be issued. Each student is responsible for the proper care, maintenance, and repairs of the instrument for the length of its issue. Any damages or problems should be reported to Mr. Kuhner or Mr. Ciasullo as soon as possible. Damages due to negligence will be charged to the student. If the instrument is lost or stolen when it is not properly secured in the Instrument Storage Cabinet, the student will be responsible for the replacement cost of the instrument. Newer school instruments will be issued to students taking private lessons.

Instruments should be maintained in excellent condition and should be cleaned and/or polished before every performance. **CONSULT WITH MR. KUHNER OR MR. CIASULLO FOR PROPER CLEANING INSTRUCTIONS.**

Instruments will be inspected periodically.

Students who have their own instruments should check with their parents to see that the instrument is included on their homeowner's insurance policy. Before purchasing an instrument, please consult with Mr. Kuhner, Mr. Ciasullo, and your private teacher.

## Section 10: Rehearsals and Performances

### 10.1 Rehearsals and Sectionals:

- ♪ Attendance is mandatory. (See Absence/Tardy policy).
- ♪ Rehearsal start time is the time that we "step off". Band Members should arrive 15 minutes prior to posted start time to be properly prepared. **REMEMBER: "EARLY" IS ON-TIME; "ON-TIME" IS LATE.**
- ♪ Warm-up on your instrument or equipment before the start time.
- ♪ Refrain from talking during rehearsal.
- ♪ Rehearsal ending time is the **anticipated** time (on occasion practices unavoidably run late; please be patient) that we stop practicing *at the field*. Expect to pick up your child approximately 15 to 20 minutes later at the Band Room.

#### Note to Parents about Band Practices:

Parents are welcome to attend most band practices. However, you must observe **QUIETLY** and from a **DISTANCE**. Many conversations, even those conducted in a normal voice, will eventually combine into a dull roar that is very distracting to the students and instructors. So please **BE QUIET** when observing practice.

### 10.2 Public Performances:

- ♪ Attendance is mandatory at all home football games, competitions, championships, parades and other scheduled performances. (See Absence/Tardy policy).
- ♪ Full band uniforms/color guard outfits are required at any public performance unless notified by the Band Director.
- ♪ When not in band uniform, approved band wear will be consistent with the desire of the Band organization to promote uniformity and team camaraderie. No "sectional" or other non-official jackets may be worn. If a band jacket is worn, it must be an official band jacket.
- ♪ The Band will remain together throughout any games or competitions.

### 10.3 Preseason

(formerly known as "band camp"):

Preseason rehearsal will be held two weeks in August, prior to the start of the school year. Dates and hours of rehearsal are as listed on the Calendar at [www.ramband.com](http://www.ramband.com).

The Annual Student Picnic will be held at Bartlem Park on the first Friday of preseason. The Annual Parent Picnic will be held at Cheshire High School on the second Thursday of preseason. Dates and hours of rehearsal are as listed on the Calendar at [www.ramband.com](http://www.ramband.com).

## **10.4 Field Show Competitions:**

The CHS Marching Ram Band is a member of the United States Scholastic Band Association (USSBA) <http://www.yea.org/ussba>. The band performs with bands all over the East Coast, primarily from Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. Bands are classified by their size (number of members). Scoring is awarded using an "Olympic Scale" of 100 points. The band receives points for various elements in its performance. The system is similar to those used to score ice-skating and gymnastics competitions. The bands do not compete "against each other". They compete against a standard. Bands in each class are ranked in order of score.

## **10.5 Football Games:**

On the day of a home football game, report to the band room at 3:30 p.m. prepared for a regular performance. The band will march down to the practice field. After rehearsal, dinner and uniform changing, the band will form-up for inspection by the Drum Majors and Section Leaders.

### **10.5.1 Stadium Seating:**

The band will march to the band seating area. Upon dismissal from the parade block, each student should find his/her assigned seat and remain at attention until all members have arrived and the Drum Majors direct the band to be seated.

During the game, students will be dismissed by the Drum Majors in pairs, to use restrooms, etc. The next pair of students may leave the stands area when the others return.

**Remember that the entire game is considered a performance.** Student conduct should be professional and supportive of our team. Individual playing, "noodling", or beating drums, etc., is not permitted. Students should always keep an eye on the Drum Majors and/or Director for instructions for playing selections. Also, be supportive of the visiting band's performance, etc.

### **10.5.2 Half Time:**

Approximately 10 minutes before the end of the first half, the Drum Majors will dismiss the percussion section and then the band proper for warm-up. Band members should file from the stands in an orderly manner and should move quickly to the warm-up area and fall into formation immediately. The band will enter the field at the end of the first half after the teams and coaches have left the field.

After the half-time performance, the band will troop the stands and return to the band seating area, after the third quarter.

### **10.5.3 Post game:**

After the game and post game performances, the band will march back to the band room for dismissal. All equipment should be returned to the proper storage areas as soon as possible. Please do your part in keeping the Band Room and other areas clean. Please remember to take all of your personal belongings including marching shoes, etc. home with you.

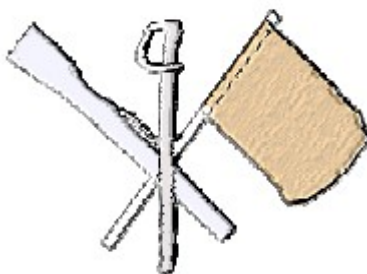
### **10.6 Other Performances:**

The Marching Ram Band has also commonly performed at the Cheshire elementary schools, the town's Fall Festival, the CHS instrumental music fall concert and in the town's Memorial Day Parade, accompanied by other CHS instrumental music students.

## Section 11: Color Guard Rehearsal Rules:

In addition to the Band rules, the following rules also apply to the Color Guard:

1. No one leaves rehearsal until the floor and props have been picked up and put away. Everyone will help set up the floor and props at the beginning of rehearsals.
2. No one sits out at rehearsal. Run-throughs are not optional.
3. You are responsible for your equipment. When you take equipment home, make sure you bring it to the next rehearsal. If flag silks tear, they should be sewn. If a rifle cracks, it must be taped with white electrical tape. You must bring all equipment to the practice field or gym and return it to the color guard room. Only use your own equipment.
4. Wear comfortable clothing that will not interfere with your equipment handling or body/dance movement. Do not wear jeans, baggy pants, baggy T-shirts or midriff tops. Sneakers are to be worn during practices. Be prepared for the weather.
5. Gloves are to be worn at every rehearsal. Fingerless gloves can be purchased at sports stores. Solid black gloves are required. Gloves that are "falling apart" must be replaced.
6. Keep hair off the face. Bring barrettes or scrunchies if you need them.
7. No gum chewing is allowed.
8. Drill books are to be with you at all time
9. Please bring a beverage to rehearsal, preferably water or juice. No carbonated sodas.
10. No jewelry shall be worn as it can get broken or lost. Rings may get bent out of shape. Valuables should not be left in the band or color guard room.
11. Respect each other, help one another and work together as a team.



## Section 12: Winterguard

### 12.1 *General:*

The CHS indoor winter colorguard program (“Winterguard”) is an extension of the fall marching band colorguard program. The Guard season commences in late November and continues through mid-April. Full attendance at all rehearsals and competitions is required. Additional home preparation is also necessary. The Winterguard performs in the Musical Arts Conference [“MAC”] and Winterguard International [“WGI”] competitive circuits. There are presently two Winterguard Ensembles at CHS. The Open Guard competes at the Scholastic Open level of competition and “A” Guard competes at the Scholastic Regional “A” level. The “A” Guard also includes a number of students from Dodd Middle School.

### 12.2 *Prerequisites for Participation:*

- ♪ Participation in the preceding fall Marching Band Colorguard or the preceding year’s Open Winterguard (waiver of this prerequisite is solely within the Band Director’s discretion);
- ♪ Audition; and
- ♪ Payment of activity fee

### 12.3 *Activity Fee:*

Due to the expenses required in maintaining the Winterguard Program, an activity fee is required. **This fee is non-refundable.** The Activity Fee **does not include** the additional expenses, which may be incurred on the overnight trips to regional competitions [see below] nor does it include the cost of required items such as the Winterguard Warm-up Suit, Flag bag, T-Shirts, make-up and performance footwear.

### 12.4 *Rehearsals:*

Rehearsals for the Open Guard are generally scheduled for Tuesday and Thursday evenings as well as Saturday afternoons. Rehearsals for the “A” Guard are generally scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday evenings as well as Saturday afternoons. Please refer to the Calendar. Additional Sunday and Friday practices may be necessary as the show is being developed or as required by the competition schedule. Factors such as facility availability may also affect the practice schedule.

### 12.5 *Travel:*

It is anticipated that the Open Guard may compete in several WGI Regional Competitions. Regionals generally require travel and overnight hotel accommodations at an additional cost per student.

## **12.6 Additional Information on the Web:**

CHS Winterguard: [www.ramband.com](http://www.ramband.com)  
<https://sites.google.com/site/cheshirewinterguard/>

MAC [www.musicalartsconference.com](http://www.musicalartsconference.com)

WGI [www.wgi.org](http://www.wgi.org)

## Section 13: Additional Information

### 13.1 *Annual Band Awards Banquet:*

At the end of the Fall competition season, a banquet and awards ceremony is held. Please consult the Calendar for the correct date. Each student is recognized based on years of participation:

|          |                |
|----------|----------------|
| 1 year:  | Certificate    |
| 2 years: | Varsity Letter |
| 3 years: | Sectional pin  |
| 4 years: | Plaque         |

### 13.2 *Earning Credits for Trips [Band Member Accounts]:*

Throughout the year, numerous fundraisers and other opportunities are sponsored by the BPA to allow students to earn credits to be used to offset the costs of any overnight trips taken by the Band and major program expenses (but not CHSBPA dues). These trips are optional and the costs are the responsibility of the student and his/her family. A detailed explanation is set forth in the BPA By-laws.

### 13.3 *Student Fundraisers [some examples]:*

- ♪ **Kit Sales:**  
Students sell general merchandise items from brochures. The student's Travel Account is credited with a percentage of their sales. Additional cash prizes may be awarded to the top sellers.
  
- ♪ **Ram Cards:**  
Students sell a discount card that offers the card purchaser discounts at local businesses for a period of one year. The student's Travel Account is credited \$3.00 of the \$5.00 cost for each card sold.
  
- ♪ **Special Events:**  
Students have the opportunity and are encouraged to work at BPA events such as the Train Shows, Christmas Tree Pickup, Music in Motion® and the Car Show. Students may earn Band Member Account Credits based upon an hourly rate for their volunteer service. Sign-up sheets are posted in the Band Room prior to each Fundraiser.

## **Section 14: BAND PARENTS' ASSOCIATION**

Cheshire High School  
Band Parents' Association, Inc.  
P.O. Box 463  
Cheshire, CT 06410

The Cheshire High School Band Parents' Association, Inc. ("CHSBPA" or "BPA") is the parent support organization for the Marching Ram Band. It is a membership organization governed by a Board of Directors. The BPA supports the Band Program financially and by providing volunteer "manpower". The BPA raises funds through a variety of means including membership dues, special event fundraisers (i.e. *Music In Motion* ®; Car Show; Train Shows; Yearbook Advertising; Christmas Tree Pick-up), corporate sponsorships and donations. It is a non-stock, not for profit Connecticut Corporation and is a tax-exempt organization pursuant to Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The By-Laws of the CHSBPA are posted on the website (see section 14.6).

### **14.1 General Information**

The primary purpose of the BPA is to promote the musical activities and fellowship of the band, while promoting fellowship among school faculty, parents and friends of the band. The primary activities of the association are:

- ♪ To assist and support the Band Director and the Band's Student Executive Board in carrying out the musical activities and social functions of the band.
- ♪ Engage in activities, which encourage and provide student members of the band with the opportunity to raise funds for the support of their band, and in general fundraising to support the general operation of the band.

### **14.2 Membership:**

Membership is open to all parents of band students, faculty and friends of the band. Full payment of dues entitles the member to be in good standing and thereby entitles the member to the rights of membership including voting and scholarship rights.

### **14.3 Meetings:**

Four general meetings are held each year; September, October, January and June. The Board of Directors meets monthly.

### **14.5 Band Parents' Directory**

For a list of the Board of Directors refer to the CHSBPA Website: [www.Ramband.com](http://www.Ramband.com)

## **14.6 Web Page ([www.Ramband.com](http://www.Ramband.com)):**

The BPA website address is an extremely valuable source of information. The Music Department Calendar is one of the links on the website. This calendar contains information not only about Marching Band, but also about the entire Music Department. All planned events with times and locations are posted on the calendar. Please consult it often. Other useful items on the website are:

- ♪ Forms and Permission Slips. Each of the forms can be printed out.
- ♪ Handbooks / By-Laws
- ♪ Special Event Listings and Information
- ♪ Photo Galleries
- ♪ E-mail links for the BPA Board of Directors and Band Director
- ♪ Fundraising information
- ♪ Links to other useful website

***Requests for information to be posted on the website should be directed to the Webmaster for consideration.***

## **14.7 Fundraising:**

Several BPA fund-raisers are held throughout the year. The monies generated by these activities support the general operation of the band. Parent participation is necessary in order to plan and execute these activities. You are required to sign up to help for at least one of these events.

### **Music in Motion®:**

This is our home competition and our primary fund raising event. Given the importance of this event it is imperative that all parents are required to participate.

### **Train Shows:**

Two train shows are held each year; November and March.

### **Christmas Tree Pickup:**

Held the second Saturday in January.

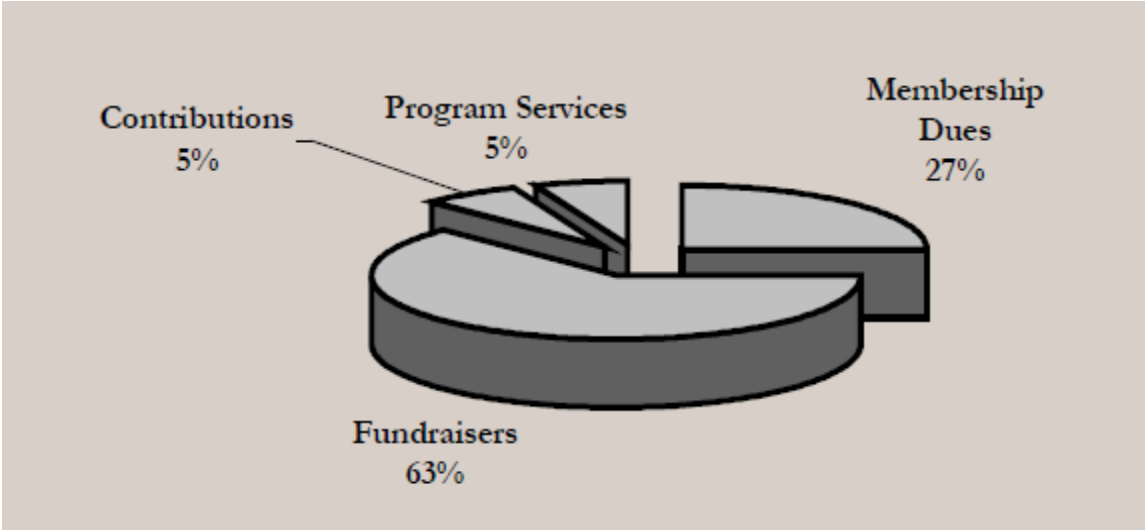
## **14.8 BPA Scholarships:**

Every year, the BPA awards college scholarships to graduating senior Band members. Scholarship awards are based on many criteria including participation, contribution, and leadership. Applicants are not judged on financial need or college major. In addition, the BPA may provide financial assistance to students attending summer music camps, colorguard camps and/or drum major/leadership camps. In order to be eligible for any scholarship assistance, the applicant's parents or guardians must be BPA members in good standing all years of band participation.

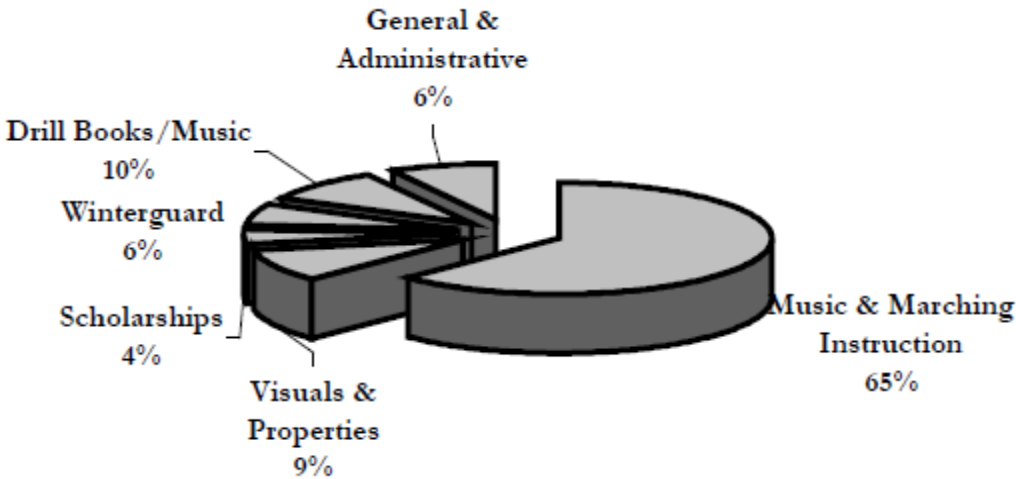
**14.9 Budget:**

In order to maintain the Marching Ram Band Program at its continued level of excellence requires a significant level of funding above the substantial support provided by the Board of Education. The total annual operating budget of the BPA is approximately \$75,000 to \$85,000. The following charts provide an approximation of the sources and uses of the BPA Budget.

Sources of Funds



Uses of Funds



## 14.10 Performance Etiquette:

Most of us are familiar with proper etiquette at concerts and plays. So too, we are familiar with proper etiquette at sporting events [i.e. “Be a fan not a fanatic”]. Marching Band Competitions, however, are a blend of athletics and performing arts and therefore, many parents are unsure as to appropriate behavior.

Accordingly, when attending a Marching Band Competition, please remember the following basic guidelines:

- ♪ Remain seated throughout the performance of each band; you may move about only between performances;
- ♪ Turn off the sound on all cell phones, beepers, and PDA devices;
- ♪ **ABSOLUTELY NO FLASH PHOTOGRAPHY;**
- ♪ Only video tape when it is allowed. At some competitions, usually championships, video taping is prohibited, but generally, at most competitions, you are allowed to video tape Cheshire’s performance;
- ♪ Avoid idle conversations during a performance; while you may consider your own conversation to be a quiet one, the overall effect of many “quiet” conversations is a dull roar and can be quite disruptive to the band on the field;
- ♪ Loud applause at appropriate moments during the performance is perfectly acceptable and encouraged;
- ♪ During the show and at awards be sure to applaud the achievement of each competing unit;
- ♪ When Cheshire’s score is announced at awards [whether we finish first or last] it is perfectly acceptable to stand and offer loud applause in support of our Band. It should not, however, be sustained to the point of being obnoxious or disrespectful to the other bands. Cheshire Band Parents have a longstanding reputation for wearing lots of red and being loud and supportive **BUT** we also have a reputation for being a “class act”.

Marching Band is like any competitive event; everyone wants to WIN and you should be enthusiastic about winning. However, you must also be respectful of all bands, not just Cheshire. Remember that your behavior not only reflects upon yourself but upon your child, the entire Band, Cheshire High School and the Town of Cheshire. Proper etiquette is “contagious” and sets a good example for other fans and parents as well as our children.

## **14.11 Publicity and Communications:**

Communications is a year-round function of the Band and it is the responsibility of the Publicity Committee. Its purpose is to promote and maintain a positive image of the Band, Cheshire High School and the Town of Cheshire.

It involves the writing, design, photography, production and distribution of news releases and promotional collateral such as ads, brochures, CDs, posters, postcards, etc. In order to be effective, it is essential that all Band communications reflect a consistency in their message and design. Therefore, it is very important that all matters of publicity and promotion be approved and coordinated through the Publicity Chairperson.

Another important component is media relations. Over the years, the Band has developed very good relationships with members of the print, radio and television media. Accordingly, **PLEASE** refer all media requests, or story/photo ideas or submissions to the Publicity Chairperson.

A successful communications program does the following:

- ♪ creates and maintains a positive image of the Band;
- ♪ promotes awareness in Cheshire which helps the Band's fundraising efforts. The more people know about the Band, the more they will want to support the program;
- ♪ encourages recruitment of new Band members;
- ♪ fosters regional and national recognition which attracts invitations to participate in national prestigious parades such as the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, the Tournament of Roses Parade, and the Presidential Inaugural Parade; and
- ♪ recognizes the talent, hard work and dedication of Band Members.

## 14.12 MAJOR EVENT SCHEDULE

Please consult the Calendar at [www.Ramband.com](http://www.Ramband.com) on a frequent basis for the correct dates and times.

The list below is a general list and may vary based on the requirements of a specific season.

|   |  |                        |
|---|--|------------------------|
| ♪ | Pre-Season   | August                 |
| ♪ | BPA Family Picnic/Mtg.   | August                 |
| ♪ | BPA General Meeting  | September              |
| ♪ | Fall Marketplace   | September              |
| ♪ | BPA General Meeting  | October                |
| ♪ | Music In Motion®   | October                |
| ♪ | Fall Train Show  | November               |
| ♪ | Pancake Breakfast (only when Thanksgiving game is a Home game) | November(Thanksgiving) |
| ♪ | Band Banquet   | November               |
| ♪ | Christmas Tree Pick-up   | January                |
| ♪ | BPA General Meeting  | January                |
| ♪ | All-State Auditions  | February               |
| ♪ | Spring Train Show  | March                  |
| ♪ | New England Music Festival                                     | March                  |
| ♪ | Winterguard Banquet  | April                  |
| ♪ | Winter Percussion  | April                  |
| ♪ | Memorial Day Parade  | May                    |
| ♪ | BPA Annual Meeting   | June                   |