



# Parent FAQ: Cedar Ridge Raider Band + Color Guard

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## Communication Methods

### What communication methods are used to share information?

The Directors will use email to send weekly updates and Slack to provide real time updates regarding schedules. Make sure you have provided the Directors with emails for your student(s) and any family members who need to be aware of schedules, expectations, etc. Reach out to Mr. Musacchio via email or Slack if you are not receiving his emails.

The Boosters run the [Band and Color Guard website](#) that provides much of the information you need to be an active member of the Booster organization. Weekly newsletters are sent to registered users of the website, so be sure to register to receive the latest information.

### What is Slack and how do I join?

Slack is a real-time messaging app we use to communicate with each other. You can download the app on your phone, and then [click this link](#) to join our slack workspace. This enables all parents and students and directors to communicate with each other.

### Is there a Student Handbook?

Yes. The **Student Handbook** is available through the Cedar Ridge Raider Band and Color Guard Website on the "[Parents/Students](#)" page.

## Band Camp & Rehearsals

### What does my student need to bring to Summer Band & Color Guard Camp?

Refer to the **Student Handbook** for a detailed list.

### Can parents watch rehearsals?

Yes! Families are encouraged to enjoy the evening watching their students rehearse. It's a great opportunity to meet families and ask questions!

### How much does the Band & Guard practice?

Per State of Texas UIL rules, band students are limited to 8 hours a week of practice during the school year. UIL allows students to rehearse an additional hour on the day of a performance, in addition to the "base" eight hours.

### What does my student bring to after school practice?

Band Students should always have their instrument and music ready for practice. They should bring their water jug (used during Summer Band Camp) in the morning and store it in their locker.

Some students prefer to fill it with ice/water at home that morning rather than trying to fill it at school.

Students may also bring a snack to have between school dismissal (4:20) and start of practice (5:00). Protein bars are highly recommended. Sweet snacks, chocolate or fried foods are NOT recommended as they can cause stomach upset during practice.

### What if my student is absent?

Always communicate absences to the Directors, this includes tutorials, practices and illnesses. Refer to the **Student Handbook** for the official absence policy.

### Will my student have time to study or attend tutorials?

Yes, the practice schedule is designed to allow time for students to attend tutorials in the mornings or afternoons. Students are highly encouraged to attend academic tutorials either before or after school to maintain passing grades. Any schedule conflicts should be discussed with the Directors.

### How are students able to balance band with other extracurricular activities?

Communication with the Band Directors is strongly advised. The Directors work with students to arrange a schedule that is accommodating to everyone. Our philosophy is that you should not have to make a choice between two activities in high school when you have not yet experienced either one!

## Band Finances

### What are the Band Fees?

Band fees are determined annually by the Band Director who also provides a payment schedule. You can find the details for each year posted on the "[Pay Band Fees](#)" page on the website. Special circumstances can be discussed with the Director. Various Winter/Spring events may require additional fees. Student Band Fees are separate from Family Booster Membership Dues.

### What is Charms?

Charms is the online software that the band directors use to manage student financial accounts for Band and (as of 2022-23 school year) any previous years' unpaid Booster Fees. As of 2022-23 year and beyond, booster fees will no longer be tracked in Charms. Charms manages all financial information for Band Fees including unpaid fees, previous payments and credits.

### How to log in to Charms

1. Go to <https://www.charmsoffice.com/>
2. Select login

3. Select Parent/Student/Members
4. The school code is cedarridgeraiderband
5. Enter parent area
6. Student Area Password is your student's Student ID Number
7. The first time you enter Charms, the password is the same as your student's student ID Number
8. Once you are in Charms, change the password to your own unique password. Remember this password. This is what you will use for future logins.
9. Payments are reflected under finances

### How can I offset my Band & Color Guard fees?

Fundraising opportunities are made available to offset the cost of Band Fees and trips such as working concessions at Dell Diamond or HEB Center. Additional details can be found on the Band Aid website at <http://crhsbandaid.ch2v.com/>. For questions, please email [CRHS Band Aid Coordinator](#) or join the **#bandaid** channel on Slack.

## Marching Band Competitions

### In what marching competitions do we participate?

Refer to Academic Eligibility rules in the Band Handbook.

- Texas UIL Marching
- Texas UIL Concert
- Texas UIL Region/Area/State (individual)
- Texas UIL Solo & Ensemble
- Bands of America (BOA)

### What are BOA and UIL? What's the difference?

These are the two "entities" in which the marching band competes.

**Bands of America (BOA)** are contests hosted by Music For All - a national, for-profit company. These contests are viewed as premier marching events for competitive ensembles.

**University Interscholastic League (UIL)** is the Texas state entity that governs athletic and extracurricular activities in our schools.

### Bands of America (BOA)

BOA contests are always in a Prelims and Finals format. All bands perform in prelims. The top 10-14 bands (depending on the contest) with the highest score from prelims will compete in Finals.

- For BOA Austin, prelims and finals are the same day. Typically, approximately 20 bands compete, and 10 bands perform in finals.
- For BOA San Antonio, prelims performances are on the Friday and Saturday of the contest. Typically approximately 80 bands compete, and 14 bands perform in finals.

For BOA, there is no “advancing” from one contest to the next. Competing programs simply register for individual events based on schedule, travel and other preferences.

### University Interscholastic League (UIL)

Each year, all band programs attend “Region UIL”. This event is a state-mandated evaluation of the performing ensembles. There are three adjudicators, and each adjudicator gives a rating of 1 (superior) to 5 (poor). There are no prelims or finals at Region UIL. It is just one performance and you receive one rating.

Every two years, bands have the opportunity to go through the UIL process that recognizes the best bands in our state and declares a State Champion. As of the 2022 - 2023 academic year, Cedar Ridge is a 6A Marching Band and our next opportunity to advance to the State Marching Championship is in the 2022 - 2023 academic year.

To make it to the State Marching Championship, a band must:

- 1) Receive an overall “1” from the adjudicators at Region in order to advance to Area
- 2) Compete at the Area contest
  - a) Area is a Prelims and Finals format. The top ten rated bands in Prelims will perform and compete in the Finals.
  - b) For every five bands that perform in prelims, one band will be selected in Finals to advance to the State Marching Contest.
    - i) For example, If there are 25 bands that compete in prelims, the top ten perform in finals, but the top five will advance to State.
    - ii) If there are 24 bands that compete in prelims, the top ten perform in finals, but only the top four will advance to State.
  - c) The Area Marching Contest is highly competitive. To even be a finalist at Area is a major achievement for a marching band.
- 3) Compete in the State Marching Contest (“SMC”)
  - a) SMC is a Prelims and Finals format. Prelims are typically held one day, and finals held the next day.
  - b) The number of finalists has varied from year to year. On the last SMC cycle, there were 12 bands that competed in the Finals.
  - c) The winner of the SMC is declared the State Marching Band Champion.

Marching band contests schedules are typically released a few weeks before the event. It is best to plan for an all-day event on the day of a marching contest. Directors will make an itinerary for the day as soon as they receive the schedule.

### Where can I find the Cedar Ridge Band & Guard performance schedule?

The Cedar Ridge Band & Color Guard's performance schedule is available on the calendar at [crhsraiderband.org](http://crhsraiderband.org). The performance season consists of Marching Season, Concert Season, Color Guard and Winter Guard.

## Appearance and Dress Code - Band Students

### During Marching Season

- NO makeup, nail polish or jewelry is permitted while in full uniform, this includes football games and competitions
- NO extreme hair color. If in doubt, talk to the Band Director
- Buy SOLID black knee length socks
- Buy black compression bike shorts - example can be found [here](#).
- Purchasing a second black band shirt is optional, but strongly encouraged so you do not have to launder a shirt late Friday night to be used all day Saturday at a contest
- Purchase a purple water jug for use during football games and contests. Write your student's name and instrument on it so it can be easily identified. Two options for Water Jug can be found [here](#).
- Cold weather - Students must wear school colors (black or purple) during marching season. This includes gloves, beanies, sweaters or jackets.

### During Concert Season

- NO dangling earrings are permitted
- Only delicate necklaces are permitted
- Students must wear black socks or hosiery and black shoes

## Appearance and Dress Code - Color Guard

### During Marching Season

- Show makeup will be decided during the first weeks of school. There will be a required makeup purchase. Every effort is made to keep costs to a minimum.
- Hair is worn in a neat bun. Hair-colored hair ties, bobby pins, and hair pins are required. If you do not want a group hairbrush used on your student, please provide a brush for your student.

- Additional body tights, if needed, are available at Dancers Closet, 1500 A.W. Grimes Blvd, Round Rock, TX 78664. Mention it is for Cedar Ridge Color Guard to receive a discount
- ½ Gallon water jugs are required on game days. The preferred color is purple. An example is provided on the [Parent and Students page](#) of the website.

## What is required on game/competition days?

### Band Students

- Instrument, Case & Music
- Performance shirt or dry-fit must be worn unless otherwise instructed
- Black Compression Shorts
- Black Socks
- Purple Water Jug (Fill at home, not school)
- Shorts or sweatpants to change into, if desired
- Sweater, jacket, hoodie or CR Letterman jacket, if desired
  - Must be black or purple and not contain third party wording

### Color Guard

- Performance shirt or dry-fit must be worn unless otherwise instructed.
- Cedar Ridge tote bags, including the following:
  - Show makeup
  - Hair accessories (brush, hair tie, bobby pins/hair pins)
  - Cedar Ridge Guard warm-up pants and jacket
  - Dry-fit shirt and performance shirt
  - Black leggings
  - Black shorts
  - Body tight, unless it is in the garment bag.
  - Uniform jewelry (if applicable)
  - Make-up wipes
  - Snacks
  - Small mirror
  - Black heavy jacket or CR Letterman if needed when the warm-up jacket isn't warm enough
  - For girls, feminine hygiene supplies
- Equipment bag, including the following (if used in the show):
  - Show flag(s)
  - Rifle
  - Saber
  - Gloves
- Garment bag



- Uniform/costume
- Show shoes
- Body tight (if not in tote bag)
- Purple Water Jug (Fill it at home, not school)

### Can Band/Guard members eat while in uniform?

- Food may be eaten while in uniform only if it is completely covered by a blanket, jacket or warm-up pants (Guard only)
- Do not provide food that can leave a residue on clothing such as Cheetos, Nacho Cheese Chips, Chocolate, etc.

### What are approved snacks during Marching Season?

- Meal and Volunteer coordinators will determine what approved snacks can be donated for the Band and Color Guard based on diet and allergies. Donation Sign Ups will be posted on the website.
- Suggested snacks include Cheez-Its, Goldfish, Fruit Snacks or Roll-ups, Power Bars, Protein Bars
- **Prohibited items included Nuts, Cheetos, Nacho Cheese Chips, Chocolate or any Cookies containing Nuts or Chocolate**

### Can Band/Guard members have their phone on game/competition days?

- Phones are NOT allowed during games or competitions. Phones must be left either in their Guard locker or on the bus. The buses are always locked.
- If you need to reach your Band student during a game or competition, you may contact the Chaperone Lead.
- If you need to reach your Guard student during a game or competition, please contact one of the Captains whose numbers will be shared.

## Winter Guard

### Are there fees for Winter Guard?

- There are separate fees for Winter Guard. These are in addition to the fees paid in the Fall Semester and can be paid through a payment plan similar to marching season. These fees cover the cost of uniforms, travel, 1 competition day meal for some (not all) competitions, etc.
- Requests for donations will be made for items such as: black and white electrical tape, hairspray, hair gel, hair ties, bobby pins, hair pins, etc. Guard members will be assigned one or two of these items - they will not each be responsible for all.

### What is the rehearsal schedule for Winter Guard?

- There are 2-3 rehearsals a week for 3-4 hours each.
- There are full-day camps during School Breaks and on weekends, as needed.

### What are volunteer opportunities during Winter Guard?

- Volunteer to chaperone on competition days - 3-4 parents on the bus
- Help with hair and makeup on competition days (come to the Guard room an hour before departure on competition days.)
- Help with uniform fittings
- Help with uniform washing
- Help at the competitions (travel not provided) to move the tarp and set props
- Provide snacks for the Guard on competition days.

### What is required on competition days?

- Performance shirt or dry-fit must be worn unless otherwise instructed.
- Cedar Ridge tote bags, including the following:
  - Show makeup
  - Hair accessories (brush, hair tie, bobby pins/hair pins)
  - Cedar Ridge Guard warm-up pants and jacket
  - Black leggings
  - Black shorts
  - Body tight, unless it is in the garment bag.
  - Uniform jewelry (if applicable)
  - Make-up wipes
  - Snacks
  - Small mirror
  - Water
  - For girls, feminine hygiene products
  - Flip-flops or easy on/off shoes - NO tennis/lace-up shoes Money for food and snacks
- Equipment bag, including the following (but only if used in the show):
  - Show flag(s)
  - Rifle
  - Saber
  - Gloves
- Garment bag
  - Uniform/costume
  - Body tight (if not in tote bag)

### Can Guard members eat while in uniform?

- Food may be eaten while in uniform only if it is completely covered by a blanket, jacket or warm-up pants
- Do not provide food that can leave a residue on clothing such as Cheetos, Nacho Cheese Chips, Chocolate, etc.

### Can Guard members have their phone on competition days?

- Phones are NOT allowed during competitions (transit, body warm-up, equipment warm-up, performance, tarp folding). Phones must be left in the student's Guard bag. If you need to reach your student during a competition, please contact one of the Captains whose numbers will be shared.

## Boosters Organization and Volunteering

### Who are the Band Boosters?

The Cedar Ridge High School Band Boosters is a volunteer-led 501(c)(3) non-profit organization formed in 2010 dedicated to the enrichment and support of the Cedar Ridge Band and Color Guard as well as our feeder middle schools. The booster club is committed to providing our time, talents and resources to the band and guard in order to provide a rewarding experience for all members. Membership in the boosters is optional, but highly encouraged.

The organization's primary role is to raise funds and support the band for purposes of training, choreography, competition, costumes/props, football games, community performances and other items deemed necessary to develop the skills and unique talents of each member. We work to instill a sense of school spirit and community pride in all our members. Supporting the Band Boosters via booster membership is an opportunity for parents, family, friends, band supporters to assist the band program funding above and beyond that which is provided by the annual band fees.

### How can I support the Band Boosters?

Anyone can support the Band Boosters by visiting the "Boosters" page on the [Cedar Ridge Raider Band & Guard website](#) and scroll to "Booster Membership". Friends and family members will receive benefits as outlined in the different levels below. If you are a parent or guardian of an active band/color guard student and would like to be a voting Booster member, you can support the Boosters at whatever amount works best for your household.

### How do I volunteer for the Band & Guard program?

First, all adult volunteers must complete the RRISD Volunteer Application annually. [Click here](#) to access the current year's application.

Most volunteer opportunities are described on the [Volunteer Page](#) on the website. Sign Up Genius may also be used, when we are in need of donations (items).

### [I am apprehensive about volunteering, where should I start?](#)

Check out the [Volunteer Page](#) on the website or contact our Volunteer Coordinator at [volunteers@crhsraiderband.org](mailto:volunteers@crhsraiderband.org), who will answer all of your questions, discuss how the parent support roles benefit our band program, discuss our different opportunities and how to find them.

### [Is there a volunteer training?](#)

Yes, a mandatory volunteer training is scheduled annually and is an overview of our 'Friday Night Lights' positions including Pit Crew, Chaperones, Meals and Uniforms. Training sessions may also be provided for Concessions Stand Managers and Texas Marching Classic.

## **Band Booster Fundraising Opportunities**

The Band Booster organization is committed to serving the Band's Students by providing funds for meals, supplies, technical instruction and other expenses. We utilize multiple avenues to fund these efforts including Booster Membership Dues, Concessions, Texas Marching Classic and Fundraising.

### [What kind of fundraising does the Band Boosters conduct?](#)

Fundraising efforts include a "Boost Blitz" Donation Drive, Holiday Wreath sale, Mattress Fundraiser and Spring Mulch Fundraiser. We also engage the community through our Sponsorship Program and Social Nights.

### [Is there a Sponsorship Program?](#)

If you would like to sponsor the band either as an individual or through your business, please contact our [Fundraising Chair](#). The Boosters do have a [Sponsorship Program](#) as well as specific fundraisers throughout the year.

### [What are Social Nights?](#)

The Band Boosters partner with local restaurants and businesses to host a Social Night on prearranged evenings. The restaurant or business will donate a percentage of the sales from that evening to our band program. We're always looking for new ideas and activities. Connect with us by sending an email to [fundraising@crhsraiderband.org](mailto:fundraising@crhsraiderband.org). Typically, we need about 2 months of lead time to engage a business, schedule an event and advertise to our band families and surrounding community.