

# Corona del Sol High School Aztec Bands

2021-2022

# HANDBOOK

Symphonic Band (1<sup>st</sup> Hour)

Concert Band (2<sup>nd</sup> Hour)

Wind Ensemble (6<sup>th</sup> Hour)

Mr. David DuPlessis  
Director of Bands

[dduplessis@tempeunion.org](mailto:dduplessis@tempeunion.org)

Ms. Alexandra Holste  
Associate Director of Bands

[aholste@tempeunion.org](mailto:aholste@tempeunion.org)

[www.coronabands.com](http://www.coronabands.com)



**Students and Parents: Please read this handbook  
prior to Thursday, August 5**

**Once you read, please complete the  
Band Information Form on the [www.coronabands.com](http://www.coronabands.com) website**

# Concert Band Courses at Corona del Sol HS

## 1. Participation

- a. **Concert Band:** For freshmen
  - i. Exception must be approved by the band director.
  - ii. 2 teachers – Mr. DuPlessis (Brass) and Ms. Holste (Woodwinds)
  - iii. Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Hour – plays together at Concerts.
- b. **Symphonic Band:** Middle-level concert band, grades 10, 11, 12
  - i. Exception must be approved by the band directors.
  - ii. 2 teachers – Mr. DuPlessis (Brass) and Ms. Holste (Woodwinds)
  - iii. Meets 1<sup>st</sup> Hour
  - iv. This class is offered for Honors Credit – optional (SEE Honors Assignments)
- c. **Wind Ensemble:** Top-level concert band, grades 10, 11,12
  - i. By Audition Placement only
  - ii. Exception must be approved by the band director.
  - iii. 1 teacher – Mr. DuPlessis
  - iv. Meets 6<sup>th</sup> Hour
  - v. This class is offered for Honors Credit – optional (SEE Honors Assignments)
- d. Admission to the bands is open. An audition is required for class and part placement.
- e. At least 2 years of instrumental training is required.
  - i. Exceptions must be approved by the band director.
- f. Both a course fee and an activity fee are assessed by the school district for participation in the class (more information from the Bookstore)
  - i. Payments are made in the school bookstore made payable to “Corona del Sol”.
- g. Instruments and lockers are available for rental from the band (see Band Lockers and Instrument Checkout).

## 2. Expectations of Members

- a. Members of Concert Band are strongly encouraged to audition for Regional Band & Orchestra OR participate in the Solo/Ensemble Festival.
- b. Members of Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble are **required** to audition for Regional Band & Orchestra (participation in Solo/Ensemble is optional but encouraged).
  - i. If accepted, members are **required** to participate in the Regional Band Festival (February 18-19, 2022 – site TBA – bus will be provided)
  - ii. Solo/Ensemble Festival will usually be held on a separate weekend prior.
- c. Auditioning for West Regional Band & Orchestra.
  - i. A small fee is charged by ABODA for participation (usually \$25). This fee will be due in September.
  - ii. Students that successfully make it into the honor ensembles will also owe a \$25 participation fee (this fee will be due in late January).
  - iii. Auditions take place in late January and entail all (12) major scales from memory, three etudes, and sight-reading exercises.
  - iv. Members who make the West Regional Band or Orchestra are strongly encouraged to audition for All State Band & Orchestra.
    1. Failure to audition for State will not result in a change in grade. Making the All-State Band will receive extra credit.

2. There is an additional \$25 fee charged by AMEA to audition for the All-State level.
- d. Solo & Ensemble Festival
    - i. Optional event. A small fee is charged by ABODA for participation (usually \$25). The fee varies by the size of the group. See Mr. DuPlessis for more details.
  - e. Students are expected to practice an average of 30 minutes per day outside of class time (1 hour per day for Wind Ensemble members). Students should practice enough to be prepared for class and tests.
  - f. Students are strongly encouraged to take private lessons (Wind Ensemble members almost all take private lessons).
    - i. A list of private instructors can be obtained from the directors. Costs will vary depending on the duration of the lesson and the instructor.
  - g. ALL Band Members must attend all concerts and festivals.
    - i. Concerts and Festivals comprise the main portion of the student's grade in the class.
    - ii. Concerts and Festivals are posted on the website calendar and the students will be notified in advance. However, the dates and times of these events are subject to change due to ABODA scheduling. Dates and times will be finalized two weeks before the event.
    - iii. Students are expected to arrive at the designated time in the proper concert attire (see *uniforms*).
    - iv. Failure to attend concerts or festivals will result in a change in grade.
    - v. Students are required to attend the concert in its entirety. This entails watching the performance from the earliest possible until the conclusion of the final piece. Students who fail to comply with this policy will be marked absent for the concert.
      1. Individual exceptions or change in this policy will be at the discretion of the director.
    - vi. Students may not be permitted to participate in a performance if the director feels that he/she is not prepared, based on poor attendance or lack of practice.
  - h. Members must attend all sectionals and rehearsals
    - i. Sectionals and rehearsals will be a portion of the student's grade.
      1. Sectionals or outside-of-school rehearsals will be required by the director occasionally during the school year.
      2. Additional rehearsals will be held as necessary at the discretion of the director.
    - ii. Attendance is required at all sectionals and all additional rehearsals, as well as class period rehearsals.
      1. Notice for sectionals or additional rehearsals will be given at least 5 days in advance.
      2. The Concert Band is split into two classes, and thus there are several extra rehearsals scheduled so the band is prepared to play at concerts. Attendance is mandatory.
    - iii. Failure to attend a section or an additional rehearsal will result in a change of grade, the amount of which is at the director's discretion.

i. Testing

- i. There will be periodic playing checks and tests throughout the year.
- ii. Playing tests will comprise a portion of the student's grade.
- iii. Some tests will utilize the "Smart Music" system to submit assignments online. If a student does not have internet access at home, see Mr. DuPlessis to submit assignments on the Lab computers at school. There is no additional cost for this computer software (Tempe Union HS District has paid for membership for all band musicians this year!)
- iv. Testing will be used to determine chair placement within the ensemble.
  1. Seating will be adjusted accordingly following every test.
- v. Criteria/rubrics will be established prior to test day.
- vi. Make-ups and re-tests may be permitted depending on the situation with the director's approval.
- vii. Challenges
  1. If unsatisfied with chair placement then a student may challenge the person directly above them in chair order.
  2. Both students must agree to the date and time at which the director is available to judge the challenge.
  3. The director will select the material for the challenge from class materials.
  4. Chair seating will be adjusted to reflect the results of the challenge.
  5. A student can only challenge once every two weeks.

j. Uniforms

- i. Students in Concert Band and Symphonic Band must provide their own concert attire.
  1. Concert attire for gentlemen:
    - a. Includes their own black dress shirt, black tie, black dress slacks, all black dress shoes (marching shoes are acceptable) and black socks.
  2. Concert attire for ladies:
    - a. Includes their own black blouse (full or  $\frac{3}{4}$  sleeve), black dress pants (NO skirts or dresses), and all black dress shoes (no flip-flops are permissible).
  3. The above-described attire will be considered proper concert attire for all concerts and festivals.
- ii. Students in Wind Ensemble will be provided school band uniforms.

k. Rehearsal Conduct

- i. Students are expected to arrive to class on time. Upon arrival students are to warm up and prepare for the rehearsal.
- ii. The daily agenda will be posted on the board to ensure that students are prepared and the rehearsal is efficient.
- iii. Rehearsals will begin once the director steps onto the podium.
- iv. Rehearsals will begin 3 minutes following the bell ring.
  1. Any student not inside the band room door when the bell rings will be marked tardy.
  2. Any student not in his/her seat and ready to play when the rehearsal begins will be marked tardy.

- 3. Attendance will be entered into the band office computer each day and go to the school attendance office.
- v. Throughout the rehearsal, students are expected to remain quiet and attentive. Failure to comply with these guidelines may result in the loss of daily points and/or alternative consequences.
- vi. Rehearsal ends at the director's discretion. With the director's consent, students may begin to put away their instruments.
- vii. If the director decides to allow students to use class time for individual or group practice, students are expected to do as instructed.
  - 1. Students who do not use class time as directed will face consequences.
- viii. Students must behave in accordance with all rules and regulations laid out in the Corona del Sol High School and TUHSD Student Handbook.
- ix. Students must always have their instrument, music, and necessary instrument accessories, and a pencil at rehearsals. Failure to have necessary supplies and materials can result in a deduction in grade.
- I. Band Room Expectations
  - i. No food or drink allowed
    - 1. Water is the only exception
  - ii. No running or horseplay is permitted
  - iii. Percussionists in the same hour percussion class are the only band members permitted to play on percussion instruments.
  - iv. Lost and Found Table will be emptied once a week. The school is not responsible for lost clothing, electronic devices, or any personal property left behind in the Band Room.
  - v. It's your band room, keep it nice!
- m. All students in the entire band program are required to volunteer for 4 hours for the Corona del Sol Marching Band Invitational (Saturday, October 23 at Corona). Funds from this project benefit the entire program and we need all families to pitch in with volunteering, even if their student is not a member of the Marching Band.

### **3. Grading**

- a. Students' grades will be comprised of the following weighted categories:
  - i. Written Test/Quiz (Theory & Rhythm quizzes)
  - ii. Performance Tests (Music checks)
  - iii. Attendance/Participation
    - 1. Daily Rehearsals per month
    - 2. Afternoon Rehearsal or Morning Sectional
    - 3. Concerts
    - 4. Festivals
    - 5. Regional Auditions (1<sup>st</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Hour required, extra credit for 2<sup>nd</sup> Hour)
    - 6. Regional Festival and/or All State Participation – extra credit
  - iv. HONORS enrichment assignments (see HONORS ASSIGNMENTS – separate document)
- b. Deductions in grades will be made for the following reasons:
  - i. Tardy
  - ii. Unexcused Absence (Daily Rehearsals)
  - iii. Unexcused Absence (Afternoon Rehearsal, Sectionals, Concerts)

- iv. Lack of instrument, music, materials, supplies

#### **4. Competitions/Festivals**

- a. Concert Bands will participate in the Area Concert Festival and possibly the State Concert Festival in the spring (see Band Calendar)
- b. Additional public performances may be scheduled, and attendance will be expected.
- c. Students must have a travel permission form on file (if not a member of Marching Band)

#### **5. Financial Guidelines**

- a. Individual Fundraising
  - i. Money earned by the individual students through Band-sponsored fundraisers will remain in the student's account for the duration of the student's participation in band.
    - 1. Monies in the account will be carried forward from each year to next.
    - 2. At the end of the student's last year in band, any remaining balance will be absorbed into the band general fund.
    - 3. If the student drops band the monies will not be refunded.
    - 4. If the student is a senior, the remaining balance at graduation will be absorbed into the band general fund.
    - 5. Funds can be transferred to a sibling in the band program only.
  - ii. All-band Fundraising
    - 1. Money earned by the band as a whole through Band Booster Club and Band sponsored fundraisers will be absorbed into the band general fund.

## **Lockers/Instrument Checkout**

### **1. Lockers**

- a. Lockers may be rented from the band program without charge during the summer or school year.
  - i. Materials left in the band area without being stored in a locker may be confiscated by the band director.
- b. Each locker will be assigned an individual lock.
  - i. Students may not provide their own lock.
  - ii. Locks must be returned at the end of the school year with their correct combination attached.
    - 1. Failure to return a lock will result in the assessment of a \$5 replacement charge.
- c. Lockers may be used only for the storage of music instruments, music, instrument accessories, and other miscellaneous items necessary for rehearsal in a concert ensemble and/or marching band.
  - i. Items necessary for marching band should be stored together in a bag and not left loose.
  - ii. Lockers may not be used to store books, class work, loose clothing, or food.
    - 1. Clothes and shoes from a marching rehearsal should be stored in a bag and kept in a regular school locker.
  - iii. Any of the above-mentioned prohibited materials may be removed from the lockers without prior notice.

- d. Lockers must be kept locked at all times.
  - i. Failure to lock a locker may result in the confiscation of items with in the locker or revocation of locker privileges.
- e. Students are responsible for any and all property stored in their lockers.
  - i. Lockers may be searched without notice.
- f. Materials or instruments left in a locker or the band area following the end of the school year will become the property of the Corona Band.

## **2. Instruments**

- a. Instruments for concert ensembles or marching band may be rented from the band.
  - i. Instruments may be rented by students involved in school ensembles only.
    - 1. Exceptions must be approved by the director.
- b. Rentals are available for \$50 per instrument. More information is on the Form.
  - i. All instruments will be assessed after marching season (or near the end of school) and will be cleaned and repaired by a professional Music Store. Families will be charged for appropriate cleaning/repair fees (on average \$50 if the student cares for the instrument well).
  - ii. Instruments can also be taken to a music store of the parents' choosing, as long as all cleaning and repairs are completed from the repair assessment sheet.
- c. Rentals are subject to the completion of a rental contract requiring the signature of the student and a parent/guardian.
- d. Instruments must be returned at the end of the school year (marching instruments at the end of Marching season)
  - i. Instruments returned in poor condition will be subject to repair or replacement fees as agreed upon in the rental contract.
  - ii. Failure to return an instrument will result in the assessment of a replacement charge and may result in an incomplete grade in the student's performing ensemble class.
- e. Instruments must be stored in the correct locker at all times while in the band room.
  - i. Instruments left out or stored in the incorrect locker will be subject to confiscation by the band director.
- f. Rental contracts may be revoked at the discretion of the band director, based on treatment of the instrument, its case, and/or other band property.