

# Cougar Band Handbook

## Spanish Springs High School

### Membership

The Cougar Band is comprised of students that wish to achieve superior performance through hard work and a positive attitude.

### General Conduct

All students are to abide by guidelines established by Washoe County School District and Spanish Springs High School including behavior, conduct, and dress code. Failure to comply could result in being referred to the SSHS Resource Office or being removed from the Cougar Band Program.

### Rehearsal Conduct

**Be on time.** Cougar Band members must prepare *before* rehearsal so there are no delays. This includes instrument preparation, moving to the designated rehearsal area (field, parking lot, gym, or classroom), putting on appropriate marching shoes, etc.

**Remain Focused.** Rehearsal must be in the same manner as performance. Distracting behavior can not be tolerated. This includes playing out of turn, talking, and inappropriate language.

**Stay Hydrated.** Especially during hot marching practices, students are strongly advised to have an insulated, refillable water bottle. No soda, candy, or energy drinks!

**Dress for Success.** Intense marching practice requires low-top tennis shoes that allow the foot and ankle to move freely. No loose-fitting shoes (skater-style), sandals, or shoes with heels are allowed. This is a safety issue.

### Attendance

**Attend ALL rehearsals / performances.** Review the Band Calendar ([www.cougarbands.org/calendar.html](http://www.cougarbands.org/calendar.html)). Cougar Band is a team effort. Unlike most sports, marching band does not have a second string or students “on the bench”. Every Cougar Band Member must be present at all rehearsals and performances. This is reflected in the grade. Always communicate with the section leader, drum majors, coaching staff, and director if assistance is required such as transportation issues or conflicting schedules. Mr. Reynolds is the only person that can excuse an absence. Acceptable absences: bereavement, serious illness, doctor excuse. Schedule regular doctor visits (check-ups, orthodontics, etc.) to not interfere with rehearsals and performances. Parents/Students should text, call, and/or email regarding attendance concerns.

- Band Calendar = [www.cougarbands.org/calendar.html](http://www.cougarbands.org/calendar.html)
- Members must attend all performances (parades, games, concerts, Band Day, contests and festivals).
- Missing a Band Performance (contest, football game, concert, etc.) without prior written notification will result in a loss of two (2) full letter grades.
- If an emergency occurs, contact Mr. Reynolds on the band phone: (775) 200-6731 or the SSHS office.
- Always come prepared with instrument, music, uniform and good attitude.
- Each performance is unique; there are no “make up” performances.
- Work will never be an “excused absence”; Arrange your work schedule and other commitments (clubs, study groups, etc.) around the posted band schedule.
- Conflicts between to SSHS school activities require that both Mr. Reynolds and the coach/teacher be notified well in advance so that arrangements can be made.

# Cougar Band

## Excused Absence Request

\_\_\_\_\_ Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Student Name – PRINT)

Date of performance/rehearsal: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for Request: (be specific) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- This form must be accompanied by a written note from the parent or guardian.
- This form must be given to the director/staff NO LATER than 48 hours (2 days) PRIOR to the rehearsal.
- If this form is used for a PERFORMANCE, it must be turned in no later than Monday, August 30, 2010.
- For extreme emergencies (death, severe illness, etc.) this form may be turned in with a written note from the parent or guardian *no later than 48 hours* (2 days) after the student returns to school.
- To maintain a passing grade, students may not miss more than one (1) performance per semester.

---

### Director's Use Only:

Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved / Denied

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director's Signature

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for Denial: (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Cougar Band

## Lettering

---

To receive an official SSHS Letter for Cougar Band, the student must accumulate 45 points (based on the table below) and be a *member in good standing*\* for both semesters. It may take more than 1 school year to earn a letter.

Each year the student repeats these requirements they receive a pin to be added to the official SSHS Letter. Letters can be worn on Band Jackets or lettermen jackets purchased separately.

Activity		Points	Your Total
<b>WCSD Honor Band</b>	Audition	2	
	Being Selected & Participating	5	
<b>All-State Band</b>	Audition	2	
	Being Selected & Participating	8	
<b>Reno Philharmonic Youth Symphony</b>	(full year)	10	
<b>Jazz Band</b>	(full year)	8	
<b>Concert Critique (2 pages)</b> UNR Band/Orchestra, Reno Philharmonic, Toccata, or other professional ensemble approved by Mr. Reynolds		2	
<b>Private Lessons (per semester)</b> Provide letter from private teacher; at least seven (7) 30-minute lessons per semester		7	
<b>Solo/Ensemble Festival (max of 2 per year)</b>	Points based on Rating from Judge:	6	
	7 for "I", 6 for "II", 5 for "III"	5	
<b>Band Festival</b> Award to each band member if the band receives a "I" or "I-" from all judges		4	
<b>Pep Band (basketball)</b>	Attend ALL scheduled games	10	
TOTAL			

\*A *member in good standing* has never had their grade affected by attendance at rehearsals or performances. Students that earn letters must attend all football games, marching band contests, band concerts, and festival performances. Attendance is a critical factor in earning a letter.

# Cougar Band

## Instruments

---

### Storage

Lockers and Locks are provided for secure instrument storage. Students must use the provided school-owned lock. Lockers are for storage of band-related items only (instrument, music, marching supplies, etc.). WCSD and SSHS are not responsible for loss or damage. Students may be asked to share lockers.

### Rental

A \$50 rental fee for using school-owned instruments is *paid once annually*. This is used for both marching and concert instruments and includes: tubas, baritones, marching brass, percussion equipment, double reed instruments, piccolos, etc.

## Band Fees

---

All activities *outside of class* are funded through Band Fees and fundraisers. This includes marching contests, band camp, all staff members, marching drill design, trips, uniforms, flags, drum heads/mallets, and much more!

### Payment

Band fees can be paid to the SSHS BOOKKEEPER whenever the SSHS Office is open. Receipts will be provided for accurate records. Be certain to specify the student name and “band fee” on all checks.

Payments can be made in installments of *any* amount. As most of the expenses associated with marching band occur in August, it is strongly recommended to pay as much of the Band Fee in August as possible. Final payments should be made by October. Letters will be mailed periodically indicating remaining balance.

## Fundraising

---

### Band Day

This event is critical to Cougar Band success! Participation is required for ALL Cougar Band members. Saturday, September 25, 2010 from 9am-3pm. Lunch is provided! Students wear uniforms while seeking donations. Last year we earned ~ \$10,000.

### Individual Fundraising

Mr. Reynolds has opportunities for individuals to raise funds for band fees and band trips. Contact Mr. R.