

Name: _____



Cobb Cyclone Band

Cobb Cyclone Band Handbook 2017-2018

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www.cobbband.net

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COBB MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND 2017-2018

Cobb Cyclone Band

A NOTE TO PARENTS

We are thrilled to welcome you and your child to the 2017-2018 Cobb Band! We strive to create excellence through responsibility, self-discipline, accomplishment, pride, musical growth, and of course, fun!

This handbook is designed to assist parents and students in understanding the many dimensions of the band program at Cobb Middle School. It should serve as a valuable resource to you as questions arise related to your child and band.

Every child is very important to the band staff, and we will strive to provide nothing less than an outstanding musical experience for each of our students. To accomplish this, it is crucial that every student understand and uphold his or her responsibilities as a member of the organization. Each child's personal success is also an integral part of the success of the band as a whole.

Please read through this handbook and help your child understand its contents. We strongly recommend that your child keep a copy of this handbook in his or her band binder for easy access throughout the year. You may also reference it at any time through our website. Please refer to it as needed.

Welcome! We are looking forward to a fantastic year!

CONTACTING THE DIRECTORS

Please feel free to contact us if you have questions not addressed in this handbook or in the correspondence we send home throughout the year. Please allow 24 hours for us to return your call or e-mail.

Cyndi Tucker Director tuckerc@friscoisd.org (469) 633-4320	Denise Soto Associate Director sotode@friscoisd.org (469) 633-4305, ext. 74322	Daniel Reberger Percussion Specialist rebergerd@friscoisd.org
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PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY

The Cobb Middle School Band exists in a number of capacities within the overall school environment. Band is an elective, curricular course with defined TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills) objectives. The band also enhances the aesthetic quality of life for all Cobb students, and promotes school spirit and pride. The Cobb Band is the first part of a seven-year journey culminating in membership in the Wakeland or Lone Star High School Bands.

In the Cobb Band, students will:

- Perform proficiently on their instruments individually and as members of an ensemble
- Develop the ability to understand and evaluate musical performances with an educated ear
- Develop an understanding of our musical heritage and recognize the importance of music in culture
- Develop self-confidence and self-discipline by working as a team member
- Build citizenship traits through mutually respectful relationships with teachers and peers
- Build a framework for the lifelong appreciation of music

STATEMENT OF MUTUAL RESPONSIBILITY

The Cobb Band has a reputation for a high standard of excellence in musical performance. This level of success requires a great deal of collaborative effort among teachers, administrators, parents, and students.

By enrolling in the Cobb Band, you are making a commitment to the band as an organization, to yourself, and to the other students in the band. This commitment includes accepting responsibility for the following:

- Participate as a member of the band for the full school year
- Do your best to grow musically as an individual
- Maintain a positive attitude and support the goals of the band

CLASS SCHEDULE

<u>Period</u>	<u>M,F</u>	<u>T,W,TH</u>	<u>Mrs. Tucker</u>	<u>Ms. Soto</u>	<u>Mr. Reberger</u>
1st	8:25-9:11am	8:25-9:07am	Beginning Tuba	Beginning Clarinet	x
2nd	9:15-10:01am	9:11-9:53am	Assist	Beginning Euphonium	Beginning Percussion
3rd	10:05-10:55am	9:57-10:41am	Symphonic Band	Symphonic Band	Symphonic Band
4th	10:59-11:45am	10:45-11:27am	Concert Band	Concert Band	Concert Band
5th	11:45am-1:05pm	11:27am-12:47pm	Lunch/Conference	Lunch/Conference	Lunch/Conference
6th	1:09-1:55pm	12:47-1:29pm	Beginning Trumpet	Beginning Dbl Reed	x
7th	1:59-2:45pm	1:33-2:15pm	Beginning Trombone	Beginning Flute	x
8th	2:49-3:35pm	2:19-3:01pm	Beginning Horn	Beginning Sax	x

SECTION REHEARSALS (CONCERT AND SYMPHONIC BANDS)

Concert and Symphonic Band members are **required** to attend one 45-minute weekly section rehearsal before or after school as set by the band director. Every attempt is made to avoid conflicts with school athletic practices and other school activities. The directors work cooperatively with coaches and other teachers to resolve any conflicts that may occur. **Students will be notified of the section rehearsal schedule in writing, and the schedule will be placed on the Cobb Band website.**

Students earn a test grade for each section rehearsal based on prepared assignments and participation. Morning section rehearsals are held from 7:30-8:15am. Afternoon section rehearsals are held from 3:45-4:30pm. Section rehearsals are designed to address musical skills specific to each instrument in a small group, and are integral to the success of the band. Late grades will be assigned as follows:

- 1-5 minutes late- maximum grade of 90
- 6-10 minutes late- maximum grade of 80
- 11-15 minutes late- maximum grade of 70
- More than 15 minutes late- maximum grade of 50

Please do not schedule appointments or other activities during section rehearsal times. If a student must miss a section rehearsal missed due to illness, absence from school, or other excused conflict (please discuss any known conflicts with a band director prior to the absence), the rehearsal grade will not be counted. Students will not be allowed to make up *unexcused* absences from section rehearsals. It is the student's responsibility to find out what material was covered at any missed section rehearsal.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Students will receive a calendar of band events and activities for the school year. We make all attempts to provide complete and accurate information, but some adjustments may have to be made during the year. The directors will provide new information to students as soon as possible as updates are made. Any changes, updates, and reminders will be:

- E-mailed to students and parents
- Posted to the band website
- Discussed in class

Students are required to participate in all scheduled band activities unless noted otherwise. Absences are only excused in accordance with established district criteria. Conflicts with non-school activities are not excusable reasons for missing a scheduled band event; however, most conflicts can be resolved with

planning and communication. Some individual events (All-Region Band auditions and Solo and Ensemble Contests) do allow for flexibility in scheduling.

Please note all band activities on your home calendar to avoid conflicts and last-minute stresses.

ABSENCE PROCEDURES

Unlike most other academic classes, it is not possible to make up missed content in performance-based band classes. It is necessary to be present in order to benefit from music instruction. Students are expected to attend all scheduled band rehearsals and performances.

Absences for the following reasons, in accordance with FISD policy, are considered excused:

1. Illness certified through a parent or doctor in writing (preferably prior to the performance or rehearsal).
2. Medical appointments made before a rehearsal was announced. Please avoid scheduled rehearsals and performances.
3. Religious observance.
4. Serious illness or death in the family.

Directors must be notified with a written note stating the reason for the absence and signed by a parent in order for an absence to be excused.

Unexcused absences from rehearsals or performances may result in a lowered grade, loss of privileges, or reassignment to a different part or role within the band for varying periods of time depending upon the circumstances.

Also, band is an interdependent organization, and every student is important to our success. Please do not schedule regular appointments during your child's band class or section rehearsals.

ELIGIBILITY

Under state law, all students must maintain passing grades in all classes each six weeks to meet eligibility requirements for participation in extra-curricular performances (all contests, festivals, football games, and some other off-campus events are considered extra-curricular; concerts, section rehearsals, and all other rehearsals are curricular, and therefore not subject to eligibility rules). If a student earns a grade below 70 in any course for a six weeks period, he or she is ineligible to participate in extra-curricular events for at least three weeks. That student's grade will be reviewed at the end of a three-week period (when

progress reports are issued). At this time, the suspension will be removed if the student's grade in every class is equal to or greater than a 70.

Please refer to your calendar for events that require academic eligibility (football games, All-Region Band, Sandy Lake, PEAK, or other festivals).

COURSE OBJECTIVES

In recent decades, research has supported what musicians have long understood. Music is a unique and essential element of human existence with numerous cognitive and physiological benefits to those who study it. Although there has long been evidence of the direct correlation of musical understanding to achievement in other academic areas, Howard Gardner was among the first to identify that music is in and of itself a separate form of intelligence. Since then, brain research has continued to reveal that formal study of music is one of the most powerful means of tapping students' cognitive and emotional potential. Furthermore, participation in an organized musical activity produces the same intrapersonal and interpersonal benefits long attributed to team sports and similar activities.

In accordance with this knowledge and national, state, and local objectives, students enrolled in band will be expected to demonstrate the skills listed below at an appropriate level of proficiency upon completion of the school year.

- Perform successfully in formal concerts according to established criteria.
- Demonstrate the correct posture and playing position for their instrument.
- Demonstrate proper tone production and instrumental timbre for their instrument.
- Demonstrate the physical skills necessary to properly perform their instrument.
- Perform accurately and independently musical selections of appropriate difficulty.
- Demonstrate proper breathing techniques required for playing a wind instrument, or proper physical techniques for a percussion instrument.
- Demonstrate understanding of proper articulation and stylistic markings and apply these to performed music.
- Demonstrate understanding of all standard dynamic markings and apply these to performed music.
- Demonstrate and apply common indicators of tempo.
- Identify a variety of common musical terms and apply them to performed music.
- Demonstrate knowledge of rhythmic notation and counting in a variety of meters according to accepted practice.
- Demonstrate the ability to tune using both aural recognition and electronic measurement.
- Identify the intervallic relationships of notes within major and minor keys.

- Identify the inherent intonation flaws of their instrument as well as proper methods of compensation.
- Demonstrate the ability to critically evaluate both live and recorded musical performances.
- Perform at least seven major scales and the chromatic scale by memory and without errors.
- Demonstrate basic improvisatory skills while creating original music.
- Demonstrate knowledge and application of proper instrument care and maintenance.
- Demonstrate the characteristics of self-discipline both in class and at home as it relates to proper practice and execution of performance skills.
- Demonstrate the ability to work cooperatively and collaboratively with students within a performing ensemble.
- Demonstrate proper performance etiquette, both as a performer and as an audience member.

CLASSROOM PROCEDURES

Citizenship is one of the most important areas of development within our program, as classroom behavior greatly impacts learning. Success in performance is directly proportional to success in rehearsals. A band will never perform better than it rehearses, and efficient rehearsals will lead to successful bands. Therefore, every ensemble member is responsible for the success of the entire band.

The following procedures will be enforced in the Cobb Band program:

1. Exhibit respect for yourself, your peers, your teachers, and your band facilities at all times.
2. Be in your seat with all materials, ready to rehearse, at the bell.
3. Keep a pencil on your stand during every rehearsal, and mark mistakes the FIRST time they occur.
4. No talking or other off-task behavior during rehearsal, even if it meant to help your neighbor.
5. Raise your hand after the director has finished speaking if you have a question.
6. Follow instructions the first time they are given.
7. Handle only your own instrument.
8. Remain seated during class time.
9. Play your instrument only when asked to do so.
10. No food, drinks, or gum in the band hall.
11. Only band students may enter the band hall.

BAND LOCKERS

Band lockers are assigned to students as a place to keep their instrument, music, and instrument care supplies. Locks must be used correctly at all times except during class. Please keep only band supplies in your band locker (no backpacks, books, lunches, etc... other than during your band class). **NO INSTRUMENTS ARE EVER TO BE LEFT OVERNIGHT!**

PRACTICE ROOMS

There are seven practice rooms in the band hall, shared among all band and orchestra students. Students are welcome to use these rooms to practice before and after school on a first-come, first-served basis. Private lessons do take priority over student practice. **Please note that practice in a group at school is NOT satisfactory as the only type of practice a child does! Students should ALSO practice at home.** Please observe the following regarding practice room use:

- Practice rooms are for practice and private lesson use only (not just hanging out with friends)
- No food, gum, or drinks in the practice rooms
- Students may not exceed the posted occupancy for any room
- Any moved equipment must be returned to original location when finished
- Turn off light and leave door open when finished
- Disruptive students will be asked to leave and may be prohibited from practice room use for a period of time

CONCERT ETIQUETTE

Concerts are the culmination of much student effort, and are necessary to meet state requirements for band. More importantly, concerts are an opportunity for students to demonstrate their talents and efforts for an appreciative audience. It is very important that both students and listeners observe appropriate concert etiquette during any musical performance. Please observe the following:

- Performers must dress appropriately for the performance (see calendar for specific requirements for each performance)
- Turn off all cell phones and other devices during the performance
- No food or drinks in the performance area
- Refrain from talking when the director takes the podium
- Only enter or leave seats during applause or between groups
- Do not take flash photographs while the group is playing (before and after is fine)
- Crying or fussy children should be taken to the lobby

A few specific notes:

- It is appropriate to applaud as the director approaches the podium

- During a multi-movement piece, applaud at the conclusion of the work (when the conductor's hands come down)
- Do not applaud for soloists during a concert band performance; DO applaud for soloists during a jazz band performance
- Avoid shouting, heckling, or whistling
- Standing ovations are appropriate to recognize an outstanding performance

Please also note that students in the Cobb Band are expected to support each other, and must attend other groups' performances in accordance with our curriculum. We expect students to stay for the ENTIRE concert, not just the portion in which they perform.

CONCERT DRESS

We have two "uniforms" that we wear for our performances. The Spirit Wear Uniform consists of:

- Band t-shirt (included as part of your band fee)
- Jeans (or shorts when appropriate)
- Athletic or other shoes

We wear this uniform for football games, pep rallies, and Sandy Lake Contest, and all Beginning Band performances. Note that this is the ONLY uniform that Beginning Band members will wear.

The Formal Uniform consists of:

- Black band polo (included as part of the 7th/8th grade band fee)
- Black pants or skirt (no black jeans)
- Black belt when appropriate
- Black dress socks or hosiery
- Black dress shoes

Concert and Symphonic Band members wear this uniform for formal concerts and contests.

Band students may wear dressy clothing of their choice (guidelines will be provided in the flier for each event) for Solo and Ensemble Contests, and may wear casual clothing for All-Region auditions.

PRIVATE LESSONS

We are pleased to offer a high quality private lesson program at Cobb with professional teacher/musicians on every instrument. Private lessons provide excellent musical enrichment for students, and allow your child to receive specific instruction to meet his or her needs. Private lessons are NOT remedial! They are

designed to meet the needs of EVERY student, targeting specific areas of growth and challenge!

Lesson cost is \$18.00 weekly for one private lesson, equaling half of one class period. Lessons are scheduled by our private teachers during band class time or before/ after school hours. Most lessons will take place on the Cobb campus. Please fill out the private lesson form and return this to your child's band director. We will place students with private teachers on a first come, first served basis. You may begin taking lessons at any time; however, private teachers set their schedules at the beginning of the year, and may not be able to accommodate students after that time. Also, please understand that our private instructors calculate income based on the number of students who enroll in lessons at the start of the school year. One enrolled, students are expected to continue private lessons throughout the entire school year. Please visit our website, www.cobbband.net, for contact information for approved teachers.

PRACTICE

Students who practice effectively are successful! Consistent and regular practice is a very important part of a musician's growth and development, and ***every student in the Cobb Band is expected to practice daily. No instruments are ever to be left in the band hall (or school lockers) overnight!*** Before and after school rehearsals are not considered individual practice time.

Practice reports will be due each week. These practice records are not intended to let the directors know whether or not a student has been practicing, as the directors can usually tell by each student's performance in class whether or not he or she is practicing sufficiently and correctly. The purpose of the practice record is to involve the student and his or her parent in the practice process and to provide accountability and credit for the required work. Practice records are designed to promote quality practice, and provide the student and parent with an outline for how to practice effectively.

The directors understand that students sometimes lose interest in practicing. During these low points in interest, it is both the directors' and parents' responsibility to help motivate the student to continue practicing until his or her interest returns. **Parents may be concerned that "forcing" their child to practice will negatively impact the child's attitude toward music. However, the most detrimental influence on a child's attitude toward music is their inability to perform successfully, and lack of practice simply perpetuates this negati**

Good practice habits will reinforce good performance skills. Poor practice habits will reinforce poor performance skills. It is important that students understand how to practice correctly and that they apply this knowledge in their daily practice routine. As a parent, ask your child what their practice goals are each day. This simple task will do a great deal to promote good practice habits. Read the practicing resources on the band website, and ask your child what he or she is learning in class. Students will nearly always have specific skills to practice that have been presented in class.

*From The Young Person's Guide to Making Music Series:
Regular practicing is a path towards self-discipline that goes way beyond music — it's a skill that has hugely positive ramifications for personal fulfillment and lifetime success. But the trick is that self-motivated discipline isn't exactly first nature for most kids, so it's up to families to help create positive, engaging and fun ways to practice as a path towards self-motivation.*

GRADING POLICY

The Cobb Band grading system will follow Cobb's delineated categories: Major Grades, Minor Grades, and Daily Grades. Daily grades include those earned through daily participation and preparation, theory assignments, and practice reports. Major and Minor grades will include playing tests, written theory quizzes, section rehearsal assignments, performances, and objective sheets.

SCHOOL-OWNED INSTRUMENTS

Each band student who uses a school-owned musical instrument will pay a \$100.00 instrument usage fee each school year, per FISD. This covers normal wear and maintenance only. Students will receive a form to be signed and returned. Payments are made through www.mypaymentsplus.com. More specific information will be provided at check-out times.

SUPPLIES

Concert and Symphonic Band members will need the following supplies this year:

- A good, working, and well-maintained instrument from the approved list
- Band t-shirt and polo shirt (provided as part of your band fee)
- Other uniform pieces as outlined in the Concert Dress section of this handbook
- Black 1 1/2" binder
- 8 tab dividers (we will provide labels in class)

- Flip-folder
- Lyre (except flute, oboe, bassoon, tuba, and percussion)
- Metronome and tuner (you should already have this from beginning class), or app on your device
- Tuner clip (you should already have this from beginning class)
- Folding wire music stand for home practice (you should already have this)
- Case tag (label your case clearly with your name)
- Care supplies for your instrument: reeds, valve oil, slide grease, clean swab, soft cloth, mouthpiece brush, etc...
- Percussionists need a clearly labeled stick bag. Your director/ private teacher will give you a list of necessary sticks and mallets.

Beginning Band members will need the supplies listed in the packet you received when you signed up for band. Please contact a director if you have questions.

INSTRUMENT CARE AND MAINTENANCE

All instruments require regular maintenance to remain in working condition and to prevent the need for extensive repair. Brass and woodwind players must regularly oil valves and grease corks and slides. You will need to buy more slide or cork grease or valve oil as your supply runs low. Reed players always need a supply of at least 4 good reeds. Do not wait until you are on your last reed to buy more!

Percussionists are responsible for keeping percussion instruments covered and equipment stored in its designated location.

All students are responsible for their music folder and all music and method books. Each student needs to have a pencil at his or her stand during every rehearsal. Please see your band director immediately should you need another copy of your music.

INSTRUMENT INSURANCE

We encourage you to ensure your child's instrument in case of accidental damage or loss. You may wish to ensure instrument through your homeowners' or renters' policy. There is also a company called Music Agency, Inc., whose sole business is insuring musical instruments. Forms are available at www.musicagencyinc.com if you would like to look into this option.

CHAPERONES/PARENT VOLUNTEERS

We are always in need of parents to help us with band events and in other areas of the band program. Your support allows us to attend events such as football games, band contests, and social activities, and we welcome your involvement in your child's music education. In compliance with FISD policy,

parents wishing to chaperone events will need to complete a criminal history check. This can be done online at www.friscoisd.edu.

BAND PLACEMENT

Auditions are held each spring for band placement for the following school year. These auditions are comprehensive, and cover scales, musical excerpts, and other concepts covered throughout the year. Students will receive audition material in March or April. While the audition material is introduced in class, it is the student's responsibility to practice and prepare for his or her audition. Students should work to do their best, as audition scores primarily will determine placement. Parents should notify the directors in advance if your child will be unable to perform at his or her best due to illness, a problem with the instrument, etc... Audition results, once posted, are final.

Our primary goal is to place each child so that he or she is APPROPRIATELY CHALLENGED but NOT OVERWHELMED. Both our Concert and Symphonic Bands are excellent performing groups, both participate in the same concerts, concerts, and social events, and both provide opportunity for individual musical development. The primary differences lie in a) the difficulty of the literature, and b) the speed at which students are expected to master the literature. We want the best for each and every child, and carefully evaluate placement accordingly.

STEP-UP INSTRUMENTS

As students advance in their abilities, they often outgrow their beginning level instruments and/or mouthpieces. When this happens, a student's continued musical growth be hindered by an inferior instrument. Upgrading to a professional quality instrument can be a very good investment for continued success.

We will be happy to provide you with a list of approved instruments as you consider upgrading. Your child's private teacher is also an excellent resource. Please contact Mrs. Tucker or Ms. Soto before making any instrument purchase!

MUSIC RETAILERS

Music and Arts

3211 Preston Road Suite 14
Frisco, TX 75024
(972) 668-1176

www.MusicArts.com

www.lonestarpercussion.com

Lone Star Percussion

10611 Control Place
Located in Downtown Dalls
(214) 340-0835

Williamson/Music 1st

6807 W Main St.
Frisco, TX 75034
(469) 362-7171
www.wm1st.com

Carolyn Nussbaum Music Co.

625 Digital Dr #300
Plano, TX 75075
(972) 985-2662
www.flute4u.com

Duo Music Clarinet Shop

Call Mia
Frisco
(214) 436-7459
www.duoclarinetshop.com

Brook Mays

6921 Independence, Suite 120
Plano, TX 75023
(972) 618-3222
www.brookmays.com

Helpful for print music and books:

Pender's Music Co.
www.penders.com

J.W. Pepper & Sons Music
www.jwpepper.com

COBB CYCLONE BAND BOOSTER CLUB (CCBBC)

The most important component of a successful band program is parental support. We are very fortunate at Cobb to have the CCBBC in place and always working to support our students.

Every parent of a current Cobb Band student is considered a member of the CCBBC. Yearly student fees are determined by the CCBBC Board on a yearly basis, and cover uniform shirts, contest entry fees, social fee, and recording fees.

General membership meetings will be held during Band Registration Night and our Winter and Spring Concerts. Only the CCBBC executive board meets monthly.

Updates and more information are posted on the band website.

FUNDRAISING

The band is both a curricular course and a campus organization. In order to function as an organization throughout the year, the band participates in one fall fundraising activity, as well as running the concession stand at weekly football games. All money raised is used for the benefit of the students in the Cobb Band program.

We do hope that, since every student benefits from the use of these funds, every student will participate in generating necessary revenue. Donations are also gladly accepted in lieu of participating in fundraising for those who are interested. More information regarding fundraising procedures will be presented at the start of our fundraising drive.

SOLO CONTEST ACCOMPANISTS

The only expense not covered by the Band Fee is \$35 to pay an accompanist for solo contest. 7th and 8th grade brass and woodwind players must perform solos with live accompaniment. Percussion solos are almost always written to be unaccompanied.

The \$35 fee covers the cost of two rehearsals, the performance, and the accompanist's time spent learning the piano part. We will contract excellent accompanists for our students; their job is to assist your child in an optimum performance. We will do all scheduling of accompanist rehearsals and performance times, so you do not need to do that work.

Beginning students generally perform with recorded accompaniment, and do not pay this \$35. If we are able to provide live accompanists for beginning students, their fee will be reduced and will only include one rehearsal.

OFF-CAMPUS TRAVEL

All school rules apply to any off-campus event sponsored by a school organization. Off-campus, students are representing the Cobb Band, Cobb Middle School, and FISD as well as themselves and their parents. Therefore, infractions are taken very seriously. Students who fail to comply with a director or chaperone's instructions will receive appropriate consequences.

In the interest of your child's safety, once a student leaves the school with the band, that student must remain with the band until the group returns to the school. If parents desire that their child travel by alternate means to or from an event where school travel is provided, an Alternate Transportation Form must be on file with the director before the group departs from Cobb. Student with a form on file must check in with a director before leaving the group, and a director must see the student leave with a parent. A handwritten note or verbal authorization cannot be used in place of the Alternate Transportation Form.

SPECIAL TRIPS

One of the highlights of our year is the opportunity to participate in special trips and festivals.

Beginning band students will have the opportunity to travel to and compete in the Sandy Lake Funfest band festival in April. They will perform as a band and spend time enjoying the rides at Sandy Lake Park. In order to attend this trip, students must:

- Be academically eligible at that time.
- Attend all scheduled full-band rehearsals.
- Receive no office referrals in band all year.
- Maintain a positive attitude in band.

All band students will have the opportunity to participate in social trips. In order to attend these trips, students must:

- Have no unexcused absences from any band performance during the year.
- Receive no office referrals in band
- Attend contest with the band.
- Maintain a positive and cooperative attitude throughout the year.

WEBSITE AND UPDATES

This handbook is designed to give you the most comprehensive, accurate information possible regarding the Cobb Band program. Updates may occur as new information or issues arise. Please look for regular e-mails from band staff, refer often to our band website:

www.cobbband.net