



BAND HANDBOOK

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INTRODUCTION

DISCLAIMER: This handbook is a “living” document. The band directors and/or campus administration retain the authority to amend band policies if such action is deemed necessary to secure the interest of the overall band program.

The Frisco community recognizes the purpose of a well-rounded education is more than just reading, writing and arithmetic. An increasing emphasis is being placed on the arts and music. Band serves a most unique purpose in our lives and community.

The purpose of the Memorial Band is not only to serve the school and community through marching at football games and playing in concerts, thus providing entertainment and enhancing school and community spirit, but also to furnish the student with an invaluable experience. The disciplines of a good band develop coordination, cooperation, teamwork, and self-discipline to a degree not possible in academic subjects. The band is no haven for a lazy person. It demands and develops concentration so essential to success in any field of endeavor. In addition to the rewards from discipline and hard work, one also belongs to the Memorial Band Family because it is fun! There is a genuine exhilaration in making music – both alone and combined with others. There is nothing like being part of a marching band, looking up and seeing thousands of expectant faces waiting for you to perform. There is nothing like working together to make a piece of music as the composer intended and performing for family and friends. There is nothing like working so diligently on a solo or your all-state music, and to be named one of the best musicians in the state of Texas! There are too many intangible rewards to list. Just know that you are in for a truly memorable experience.

Our hope is that you will take your love of music past high school and into your adult life – that you will always support the arts through your participation or attendance at live concerts. Maybe some of you will enjoy it so much you would like to share your love of music by teaching others. How fortunate that we have this time together to work hard for such a wonderful experience.

Welcome to the Memorial High School Band Family!!!

MISSION STATEMENT

Roles can help one maintain balance in life. Within each role, goals define what one wants to achieve. Goals are the basis for weekly and daily planning. The best goals are tied to a mission statement:

- 1. The band student is a valued and cherished member of the band because of the unique and special qualities that only he/she possesses.*
- 2. Each day, the band student chooses to use his/her talents, abilities and character qualities to enhance his/her own growth and to nurture the growth of his/her fellow band students.*
- 3. In every moment, the band student chooses to behave in a manner that is consistent with his/her character.*
- 4. In every situation, the band student has the ability to choose his/her own response; his/her response will either conform to or contradict the internal set of values that governs his/her life.*
- 5. The band student has the power to create his/her own environment by the choices he/she makes in each moment. The band student is not a victim of anyone or anything. The band student does exactly what he/she wants to do; no more, no less.*

Our Promises to One Another

1. To serve to help other individuals in our band be successful, and to create success as a collective group while creating a group sense of belonging.
2. To epitomize the highest expectations required of all band members while promoting zero tolerance towards negative behavior, including poor attendance.
3. To foster superior citizenship unequivocally at all times and in all situations.
4. To remain in total control of our own perception and response in any and all given situations.
5. To consistently utilize pro-active decision making for the benefit of the band and all of its members.

GENERAL INFORMATION

BAND HALL USAGE:

- Always have a *PENCIL* during any rehearsal/sectional.
- **Students must enter the band hall quietly for ALL rehearsals.** Even after school rehearsals for marching band, etc.
- Check the board for information and rehearsal agenda every time you enter.
- All cases must be stowed in slots at all times (*including during rehearsals*). Instrument slots are for instruments **ONLY** at all times.
- No beverages, food, gum or candy in the band hall. Only sealed water containers are acceptable.
- Only band students may use the phone...*please ask* first.
- When handling band business, only one student in the office at a time to ensure everyone's privacy.
- Battery percussion must individually practice instruments outside or in a practice room. When using common areas, practice pads are required and considered acceptable.
- No hats or sun glasses in the building.
- Keep the area clean. This includes the hallway, dressing rooms, lockers, and practice rooms.
- Only members of the MHS Band program are allowed in the band hall at any time without director approval. There are **NO EXCEPTIONS**.
- The band hall is a professional learning environment. Treat it as such.

After school, please come get your instrument as soon as school is over or wait until rehearsals are finished before entering a rehearsal (or sectional) already in progress.

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

The Memorial HS band adheres to all eligibility requirements as stated by the guidelines of Frisco ISD. Concerts are considered curricular, and so eligibility does not affect concerts. All marching band activities, all-region/state, solo/ensemble, and off campus-trips are affected by academic eligibility.

Because high school band is so dependent on all of its members contributing to the group, academic eligibility for band students is especially critical. Any band student who is in danger of failing or failing, may be asked to turn in periodic grade reports from their academic teachers, and/or assigned a peer tutor to help assist them with their studies. Consistent ineligibility may result in a student being moved to a lower band or removed from the band program.

MUSIC CLASSES

CONCERT BAND

The *Concert Band* is a large performing ensemble in the band program at MHS. This ensemble is open to students in all four grades by audition and consistently performs mid-level high school band literature. Members of this group have demonstrated musical maturity, technical proficiency, and commitment to the MHS band program. Strong emphasis is placed on developing essential individual fundamentals and ensemble skills. As a part of this ensemble, students are strongly encouraged to prepare portions of the All-State Band audition music and participate in regional Solo and Ensemble Contests in February and will be required to participate in the MHS Chamber Ensemble Recital in the spring. Students must consciously work both in and out of rehearsal to improve their individual musicianship while also pursuing individual and ensemble goals. Members are **strongly encouraged** to take private lessons. The Concert Band performs at band concerts, concert band festivals as determined by group eligibility and director discretion.

SYMPHONIC BAND

The *Symphonic Band* is a large performing ensemble in the band program at MHS. This ensemble is open to students in all four grades by audition and consistently performs upper-level high school band literature. Members of this group have demonstrated the highest level of musical maturity, technical proficiency, and commitment to the MHS band program. As a part of this ensemble, students are required to attend weekly sectionals throughout the year, encouraged to audition for the All-Region Band, participate in regional Solo and Ensemble Contests, required to participate in the MHS Chamber Ensemble recital in the spring, and attend a full ensemble rehearsal once weekly as scheduled during the spring semester. Students must consciously work both in and out of rehearsal to improve their individual musicianship while also pursuing individual and ensemble goals. Members are **strongly encouraged** to take private lessons. The Symphonic Band performs at band concerts and concert band festivals throughout the spring each year.

WIND ENSEMBLE

The *Wind Ensemble* is a large performing ensemble in the band program at MHS. This ensemble is open to students in all four grades by audition and consistently performs advanced-level high school band literature. Members of this group have demonstrated the highest level of musical maturity, technical proficiency, and commitment to the MHS band program. As a part of this ensemble, students are required to attend weekly sectionals throughout the year, audition for the All-Region Band, participate in regional Solo and Ensemble Contests, participate in the MHS Chamber Ensemble recital in the spring, and attend a full ensemble rehearsal once weekly as scheduled during the spring semester. Students must consciously work both in and out of rehearsal to improve their individual musicianship while also pursuing individual and ensemble goals. Members are **strongly encouraged** to take private lessons. The Symphonic Band performs at band concerts and concert band festivals throughout the spring each year.

WIND SYMPHONY

The *Wind Symphony* is a large performing ensemble in the band program at MHS. This ensemble is open to students in all four grades by audition and consistently performs upper-level high school and collegiate band literature. Members of this group have demonstrated the highest level of musical maturity, technical proficiency, and commitment to the MHS band program. As a part of this ensemble, students are required to attend weekly sectionals throughout the year, audition for the All-Region Band, participate in regional Solo and Ensemble Contests, participate in the MHS Chamber Ensemble recital in the spring, and attend a full ensemble rehearsal once weekly as scheduled during the spring semester. Students must consciously work both in and out of rehearsal to improve their individual musicianship while also pursuing individual and ensemble goals. Members are **expected** to take private lessons. The Symphonic Band performs at band concerts and concert band festivals throughout the spring each year.

PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE CLASS

Membership in MHS Percussion is open to all percussionists who have successfully participated in a middle school band program. The members of MHS Percussion will focus on the Memorial Band Competition show as well as All-State Concert and Jazz etudes during the fall semester. The MHS Percussion Section participates at all events as part of the MHS Marching Band, as well as regional drum line competitions in the fall. During the spring semester the MHS Percussion students will audition and be placed into a band class for UIL Concert and Sight-reading preparation. The performing ensembles include the Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, and Concert Band. In addition, the students will be in percussion ensemble class and will perform individually and also present a percussion ensemble concert in the spring.

JAZZ BANDS

The Memorial High School Jazz Band is open by audition to all students currently enrolled in the MHS Band program. Students will perform in concerts and festivals, listen to the best jazz artists, and study jazz history and improvisation. The jazz band meets during the spring semester only, but may schedule auditions and additional performances in the fall semester once marching season has concluded. Spring band auditions and fall evaluations will be used to determine placement for participating students. *Only students who are currently enrolled in Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Concert Band or Percussion Class may audition for this ensemble with the exception of guitar, bass and piano players.*

COLORGUARD / WINTERGUARD

The Memorial Guard is most well known for their contribution to the marching band in the fall. Using rifles, sabers, props, and a wide assortment of flags, the guard provides a fantastic visual effect to the show. During the spring, membership continues in the form of "Winter Guard" and the MHS Guard competes on the North Texas Color Guard and Winter Guard International circuits.

MHS MARCHING BAND

All wind, percussion and colorguard members are a part of the Memorial High School Marching Band. The rehearsal demands on students are rigorous, and the highest level of commitment is expected. Due to illness, absences, eligibility, etc..., the marching band must have an alternate policy in place. Please see our alternate policy in the handbook. Performances include all home varsity football games, pep rallies, parades, and marching competitions throughout the season. Please see the calendar for exact dates/times.

MUSIC THEORY

Both Advanced Placement and On-level music theory courses are taught in music theory. This course examines how music is put together, analyzed, and constructed. It includes ear-training, notation, and sight-singing components. AP Music Theory should only be taken during a student's senior year and is only recommended for those students planning to study music in college.

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

As a member of the Memorial High School Band, many additional opportunities are available to you. We recommend you take advantage of as many activities below as possible to achieve your highest musical potential.

1. Private Lessons

All students are encouraged and expected to seek the help of a private lesson teacher. Nothing is more beneficial than to have weekly lessons with an expert teacher of your instrument. For the convenience of students and parents, private lessons can be arranged at school both during and outside of the band class time. Lessons can be arranged at any time during the school year as well as during the summer months. Please consult our website for the current list of private lesson instructors.

2. Solo Contests

ALL students will participate in an ensemble. Solo performances are strongly recommended. The solo should be selected by the end of October. Students in Symphonic Band are required to perform at the regional Solo Contest held in the spring. Most solos require a piano accompanist which will involve an additional fee paid directly to the accompanist.

3. All Region, Area, and All State Bands

Throughout the course of the school year, students will be offered the opportunity to audition for a variety of honor band groups including the All-Region Concert Bands and All-State Jazz Band.

4. Local Concerts & Performances

We are so fortunate to be living in the Dallas-Fort Worth metro-area where the opportunities to attend live concerts are plentiful. The Band Staff will give students updates on concerts and events happening in and around our community. All students are encouraged to attend as many as possible so as to enrich their musical education.

5. Summer Band Camps

There are numerous summer band camps offered in and around our area. They can last from a couple of days up to three weeks. Students are encouraged to attend at least one during the summer.

6. Band Leadership Team (BLT)

The band leadership team consists of student leaders of our organization. The highest demands are placed upon them as relates to conduct and responsibility. Auditions for the BLT take place at the end of the spring semester for the following school year.

6. Musical Pit Orchestra

Select students have the opportunity to perform in the pit orchestra for the yearly musical. Rehearsals will take place outside the school day on a specified schedule determined by the musical conductor.

EVALUATION IN BAND

MEANS OF EVALUATION

1. ***Individual playing auditions and tests*** – prepared etudes, studies, scales, and band music.
2. ***Rehearsals*** – as band is a laboratory course with much of the work being done during rehearsal time, the rehearsals are an important part of the class requirements. Preparation, both musically and with proper supplies, will be monitored and assessed.
3. ***Written Tests*** - Student may occasionally be given written tests covering musical terms and music theory covered in class.
4. ***Special Projects*** – These can involve a variety of things including solo/ensemble contest, an individual intonation charting assignment, self-evaluation, or outside reading and/or listening assignments. There may or may not be a special project for each grading period.
5. ***Performance*** – When planned, organized and evaluated as a culminating activity in a learning experience, performance before an audience is a legitimate and important part of the music curriculum. The performance for the band is akin to the final exam in a class such as English. Such performance should become for the students a goal to be attained through self-directed preparational activities, cooperative planning and organization, self-disciplined practice, creative thought and action, and self-evaluation.
6. ***Preparedness*** – having all instrument/uniform parts ready, being on time to rehearsals, both during marching and concert season, and having all music and materials ready for rehearsal.
7. ***Cumulative*** – evaluations are not confined to assessment activities or recording projects. Students are evaluated in every situation musically and behaviorally.

ASSIGNMENT OF ROLES FOR THE MHS MARCHING BAND

The Memorial High School Band is the largest, positive image-projecting organization on campus. The group appears in halftime performances during varsity football games and represents MHS in public community events as well as in the competitive marching band arena. Each year from November through July, much thought and effort is put into the numerous factors that determine the number of 'positions' that should be charted in the competition show, or Field Production, for that season. These decisions must be made well in advance as a result of the time involved in the construction and design of the program each year.

These estimations define how the music is arranged and determine the number of drill positions that are plotted. It is the responsibility of the directors to ensure that the students in the marching band are set up for success, including the job of fielding a complete ensemble without 'holes' in the drill or music. The directors carefully consider several factors when determining these numbers:

1. Current and prospective enrollment in the band program
2. Students' standing in band
3. Academic eligibility history of student
4. Attendance during previous school year and preseason training rehearsals
5. Basic skills and physical conditioning that allow for the student to march and play without the threat of injury to himself/herself or to others

INSTRUCTIONAL AND PERFORMANCE PRIVILEGES

FOR ALL MEMBERS (Applies to Principal Marchers AND Auxiliary Squad)

- Rehearse as a unit during all band classes
- Rehearse as a unit during marching fundamentals
- Rehearse as a unit during music ensemble rehearsals
- Perform as a unit at all pep rallies
- Perform as a unit at all parades
- Perform as a unit during Memorial Band halftime show

INSTRUCTIONAL AND PERFORMANCE DIFFERENCES

- Principal Marchers march and play during the competition show during halftime and for band contests throughout the season
- Auxiliary roles include performance contributions in the areas of visual effects or logistical assistance, depending upon the needs of the program. Of course, this privilege is extended upon contingency of academic eligibility.

ATTENDANCE CONSIDERATIONS

A Principal Marcher may forfeit his or her role if they miss a performance of any kind. In addition, a loss of a position may result from unexcused absences, extended absences (even if excused), tardiness or early departure from rehearsals.

GUIDELINES AFFECTING STATUS

I. MUSIC

Each student will need to pass off all necessary music for that week. Students will be given multiple opportunities to pass off music each week while marking time with step-offs as part of the contest show, or by standing still if a pep tune or other piece. Students can arrange additional pass-off times with section leaders, drum majors, or directors each week. More information regarding pass off protocols will be provided in the Grading Guidelines Document distributed each six weeks grading period.

II. MARCHING

Students will be expected to fully execute their assigned drill position. Students may be asked to recall their coordinates in the show by writing down their "dots" for their section leaders, drum majors, or directors. Students are expected to maintain a high level of marching proficiency at all times. Students are constantly assessed on their overall marching and playing performance. If directors feel that a student is not meeting the expectations of the ensemble, their position may be re-evaluated.

****We want all students to feel successful in memorizing their music and marching routines. Students should always feel comfortable asking the student leadership or directors for help with these skills.****

III. ATTENDANCE

Being present at all rehearsals is the most minimal of requirements for learning to occur. You must do everything possible (by planning ahead) to be in attendance. Remember, in a band your performance is directly related to that of others. No matter what your role is within the band, you are an active participant and the team is counting on you. The following policies are designed with that team concept in mind:

1. Being on time is being in your "correct rehearsal venue" with all necessary materials prior to the official start time as determined by **"Memorial Band Standard Time."** The official "Memorial Band Standard Time" is in sync with the digital clocks set throughout the school. Mr. Stalcup's watch is also set to this clock. You should set your watch by it also. Therefore, to be on time, you must be early. This would include any preparation time you need for your instrument and music, changing clothes, filling water, getting a pencil, travel time to and from outside or another predetermined rehearsal venue, etc...

During your band class period, the requirement to be considered "on time" is to be in your seat ready to rehearse exactly three minutes after the bell. Students entering the band hall after the tardy bell will also be marked tardy. During after-school marching rehearsals, the requirement to be considered "on time" is to be on the sideline of the correct field, ready to rehearse (with all materials) exactly five minutes before the scheduled start time.

2. Attendance at all before and after-school rehearsals are mandatory and part of the curriculum for all band classes (see memorial.band/calendar for times).

3. Attendance at all summer band rehearsals is mandatory and a requirement of the course (see Summer Band Letter for specifics).

4. Attendance at all performances is mandatory and a requirement of the course. Members not participating in a particular performance may be required by the director, on an event by event basis, to attend. Learning from listening can be just as productive as learning by performing.

5. All absences and tardiness will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis by Mr. Stalcup. Please notify Mr. Stalcup first of any upcoming absence or tardy. Attendance decisions will not be made by Band Leadership Team members. You must speak with a director.

6. Excused absences or tardies from performances or rehearsals will be considered only the following cases when submitted in writing to Mr. Stalcup **at least one month in advance**:

- Religious Holidays (when notified in advance).

- "Once-in-a-lifetime" family event. (ex.: Sister's wedding, Grandparents' 50th Anniversary).
- Student illness.
- Severe personal injury or medical condition (requires Dr.'s notice).
- Death in the family.
- Military Events.

7. School athletes must be proactive about handling absences or tardiness due to conflicts.

- Students must notify Mr. Stalcup in writing of any rehearsal conflicts at the beginning of the year for fall sports and prior to the start of the season for any other sports.
- With many band students involved in every different sport, the band directors depend on students to communicate openly and in advance to both coaches and directors concerning conflicts.
- With the comparatively few amount of contest performances we have each year, these are rarely excused for athletics practices or games but are handled on a case-by-case basis...**so always talk to Mr. Stalcup.**
- After school concert band sectionals may require you to leave athletics early one day a week during the spring semester only. Make sure you notify your coaches prior to the start of the spring seasons.

15. If an absence or tardy does not meet the above conditions, prior notification will not result in the absence being excused. Examples include but are not limited to: work, transportation concerns not worked out in advance, non-school sports practice or games, church related activities or trips, your friend's birthday party, babysitting your little sibling, etc.... **With 100% of our marching instruction done before and after school, it is vitally important that parents and students actively schedule any doctor, dentist, or orthodontic appointments around our calendar of events.** The directors will not excuse absences for appointments except in the case of a medical emergency. During concert season, an appointment during your once-a-week sectional will not be excused.

16. Excessive tardiness, whether excused or not, may result in loss of music assignment or contest spot. Make sure you are present on time!

17. Two ***excused*** absences in one week will result in the student not marching in that week's game. One ***unexcused*** absence will result in the student not marching in that week's game.

IV. COORDINATE SHEETS AND MUSIC

Without coordinate sheets and music, we are unable to rehearse effectively. A student without his/her coordinate sheet and/or music at rehearsal may be replaced with someone that has brought theirs to rehearsal.

V. BAND MEMBERS AND COLOR GUARD

Band members are allowed and encouraged to audition for, and participate in, winter guard during the spring semester. They must remain double-blocked in their band class and are not required to add guard class to their schedule, unless they have enough flexibility to do so while continuing to double block band.

Band students wishing to participate in the fall guard many do so under the following guidelines:

- Students must have been academically eligible for all prior band related events.
- Students may not have been placed in In-School Suspension (ISS) or Out-of-School Suspension (OSS).
- Students must be fully paid in all of their fees related to the band program.
- Students must have participated in no fewer than two seasons as a performing member of the Varsity Winter Guard at MHS.
- Students must continue to double-block band and continue playing their instrument all year.
- Students must have zero (0) unexcused absences from required performances.
- Students must complete a skills evaluation and display an advanced level of mastery on all required items (as determined by the guard staff). This evaluation will be given once per year.
- Students may also elect to participate in fall guard if their primary musical instrument is one which cannot be utilized in marching band (Oboe and/or Bassoon players only)

VI. BAND MEMBERS AND SINGLE BLOCKING

Band members are required to double block band during both fall and spring semesters. Single blocking under certain specific circumstances may be approved at the discretion of the Director of Bands. These potential exceptions are limited to:

- Athletes, who may single block band during the semester where their sport is "In season" or most active. These students may only do so for one semester, and must double block the next.
- Students who are behind on academic credits required to graduate and may need to request to single block in order to make-up missed credits.
- Students who are enrolled in a required course (for graduation) which is offered only during the class period where they are scheduled for band. In some cases, students may be moved down a band level in order to avoid this conflict, or single-blocking may be requested.

VII. STUDENTS WHO LEAVE THE PROGRAM

In general, students who choose to leave the band program, for any reason, are prohibited from re-joining later. Exceptions to this practice may be made on a case-by-case basis and at the discretion of the Director of Bands, or the relevant staff member overseeing that area. This includes students to intend to "quit" one part of the band program to "join" in another program capacity (ie. A student may not "quit" being a trumpet player, and then "join" the percussion class).

Band Leadership Team (BLT)

The Memorial High School Band Leadership Team is a representative body of student leaders whose purpose is to set the standard and provide support for, advise and assist all instrumental music students. Besides acting as exemplars for the ensembles, each member of the board also performs specific duties that make the music program stronger and function more smoothly and efficiently. Available positions include:

Drum Major(s)– Be effective role models for all band students. Conduct the band as required. Maintain field discipline as needed. Assist in chart marking and marching instruction as needed. Facilitate the placement of podiums, speakers and other necessary equipment before the start of rehearsal each day. Operate the metronome during rehearsals. Oversee and maintain marching field cleanliness daily.

Section Leaders/Captains (Brass, Woodwind, Percussion, Guard) - Be effective role models for all band students. Coordinate the activities of your section as required. Maintain field discipline as needed. Take attendance at all rehearsals and inspection blocks. Assist in chart marking and marching instruction as needed. Assist the section leaders in the instruction of their students. Oversee and maintain marching field and band hall cleanliness daily.

Squad Leaders - Be effective role models for all band students. Assist in chart marking and marching instruction as needed. Facilitate the instruction of their student sections, including communication, coordination, and organization. Oversee and maintain marching field cleanliness daily.

Loading Crew Head – Work with band staff and the loading crew to insure effective loading and movement of band equipment for ALL travel throughout the year. Create a system to insure that all equipment is loaded and transported and secured correctly. Demonstrate and instruct loading crew on proper care and handling of instruments. Facilitate the loading and unloading of luggage and other items during the spring trip.

Uniform Crew Head – Responsible for overseeing the repair of uniforms, making sure uniforms only leave the uniform room for band functions, and being the only person to check-in or check-out uniforms for performances. Establish a uniform crew to manage the uniform room. Insure that the uniform room is clean and functional at all times. Demonstrate and instruct the band students on proper care and hanging of uniform parts, including re-fresher lessons for repeated infractions

Librarian Crew Head – Responsible for keeping the music library organized, catalogued and current. Maintain copy room operations, and clean library area weekly. Create and maintain a master folder system for music in each class. Assist in the coordination of summer mail outs. Ensure proper distribution of parts, and have extra parts ready. Facilitate the production and distribution of drill coordinate sheets.

Student Ambassador - Band Ambassador will oversee the cultural development, evolution, and social activities of the band program as a whole, oversee all Crew Leaders and Crew Team Members, and act as a student-director liaison for all matters related to student activities within the band program.

Requirements for Band Letter

The following standards are necessary for fulfillment of letter requirements:

1. Students must complete two full school years as a member in **good standing** of the ensemble. Action resulting in suspension, either in-school or out-of-school, at any time during the school year may disqualify a student from being eligible for a letter.
2. Students cannot have an unexcused absence from any required performance (concerts, football/basketball games, festivals, chamber ensemble, etc.) or have excessive absences from sectionals and rehearsals.
3. A grade of C (70%) or better in each band, each year.
4. Any student found using drugs, alcohol and/or tobacco during a band function (rehearsal, performance, trip, game, etc.) will automatically forfeit their letter for the current school year.
5. Any student who is out-of-school suspended for any reason more than once will automatically forfeit their letter for the current school year.
6. Students must audition for at least one (1) honor/All-Region band to be eligible for a letter.
7. Students must participate in a judged Solo and Ensemble festival to be eligible for a letter.
8. Students are expected to be active participants in the music program in order to earn a letter. This includes things such as participating in the pit orchestra, auditioning for multiple honor band auditions, performing multiple times at the solo and ensemble festival, volunteering at fundraising events or simply volunteering to help out in the band room.
9. Any student who has participated in the program for four (4) years, including his or her senior year, without earning a letter may be awarded a letter.

Students must earn a total of 10 points to qualify for their letter jacket:

Cumulative Points – these points will roll-over into future years.

- Freshmen will be awarded 2 points at the end of their 2nd year of band participation
- Sophomores will be awarded 2 points at the end of their 2nd year of band participation
- Juniors will be awarded 3 points at the end of their 3rd year of band participation.
- Seniors will be awarded 3 points at the beginning of their 4th year of participation.

Yearly Points – these points must be earned each year and do not carry over into future years

4 points – for achieving membership through audition in a performing all-region band or jazz band

1 point – for achieving membership through audition in the ninth-grade all-region band

2 points – for advancing to the area level audition in band

4 points – for achieving membership in the TMEA All-State band

2 points – for achieving a division 1 rating on a solo or ensemble at the UIL Solo and Ensemble Contest on a class 1 or 2 solo or ensemble. These points may be earned for multiple events in a single year.

BAND UNIFORMS

UNIFORM GUIDELINES

The taxpayers of Frisco ISD have contributed a great deal of money so that we may have nice uniforms. It is our responsibility to protect this investment. Section leaders will inspect their section at the beginning of every performance. The following guidelines will be met:

Shoes/socks

- Polished and clean
- Plain, LONG, solid black socks that come at least to the calf

Pants

- Clean and unwrinkled
- Hemmed to appropriate length (NO break in front) and ABOVE the top of the shoe
- Band uniform shorts worn underneath (black)
- Must be hung correctly on hanger before turning in to uniform crew

Coat

- Wrists hemmed to appropriate length (at wrists while in playing position)
- Clean and unwrinkled
- Proper breastplate attached (if any)
- Band uniform shirt worn underneath (black moisture shirt)

Gloves

- Clean, without rips or tears
- Woodwinds will have fingertips cut, see a drum major or section captain to ensure uniformity

Hat

- In hat box with poncho
- **NO** other items of any kind are allowed in the hat box...especially food!!!

Miscellaneous

- NO jewelry of ANY kind
- Female long hair should be placed in a tight bun on the top of the head and **MUST** be tucked up underneath the hat.
- Male haircuts should remain short and conservative throughout marching season. Hair must not touch the collar. No hair past the ears and no facial hair.
- No colored nail polish.
- MHS marching shorts should be worn under uniform at all times.
- Official black band moisture control shirt will be worn under the uniform at all times.
- Part of inspection is having all music, flip folder, uniform etc...
- Gentlemen will be clean-shaven for all marching performances.

Total replacement cost of the Memorial HS Band Uniform = \$450.00

SCHOOL-OWNED INSTRUMENTS

Students who play oboe, bassoon, Eb clarinet, bass clarinet, tenor saxophone, baritone saxophone, French horn, mellophone (marching French Horn), euphonium, marching baritones, tuba, sousaphone, or percussion are issued a school-owned instrument for the school year. Care should be taken by the student for general upkeep throughout the school year as unusual damage caused by the student throughout the school year will be charged to the student.

TRAVEL GUIDELINES

BUS POLICIES

1. All band members will be assigned a bus to be used throughout football season.
2. Attendance will be taken on each bus, both to and from any performance or event.
3. Students must ride the same bus to and from the event.
4. Students must obey all school and bus rules.
5. No talking on buses when in parking lots. Drum majors, BLT members, or staff will tell you when talking is appropriate. This tradition should carry into concert season regardless of the type of group traveling. In marching season, all talking should cease when you can see the stadium. At the staff or drum majors' discretion, talking may be permitted when remaining in a parking lot for a prolonged period of time. Please, no talking on cell phones while in parking lots.
6. No food or drink is permitted on the buses – unless specifically allowed for special circumstance.
7. Show common courtesy and respect for the bus drivers and chaperones. Chaperones are volunteering their time for our benefit.
8. Uniforms on the bus should be in garment bags with band pants/shirt/shoes worn.
9. If you have a large instrument that is loaded on the equipment truck, you are responsible for getting your instrument to the truck before they start loading and responsible for taking your instrument with you when they unload the truck.
10. All instrument cases should be labeled clearly with the student's name and *Memorial High School Band* on the case.
11. Students are **REQUIRED** to travel with the band to AND from ALL band events.

GAME POLICIES

1. Students who are tardy to call time and/or fail inspection could be sent home and not allowed participate with us at the game. This would result in a zero for their game grade.
2. No gum ever while in uniform.
3. Use the restroom before we leave for the game.
4. Look crisp and professional when marching into any stadium (home or away). All instruments within the section are to be carried in the same way. All uniform parts are to remain on and intact unless otherwise directed.
5. All band members will sit together in the stands – no non-band members allowed in our cluster.
6. During the game, no food or drink (besides water) is allowed in the stands.
7. Students are required to remain with the band during the entire game and will be sent to the restroom two at a time on an as needed basis at the discretion of the director(s).
8. Do not go into other sections of the stands at any time – stay together.
9. Uniform check-in and check-out procedures will change on a regular basis depending on the contest and cleaning schedule.

SPRING TRIP

On occasion, the Memorial Band takes a trip in the spring in order to compete at a concert festival. Students and parents raise money throughout the year in order to supplement their payments for the trip. Please note that a timeline of full/partial refunds is released prior to the trip, and that students' ineligibility due to grades during the 6-week grading period that the trip occurs in will not be cause for a refund. The refund timeline will be released to the parents before the first trip payment is due. Any student who has been assigned to ISS, OSS, assigned to juvenile detention or expelled for part or all of a given school year may be denied permission to attend the spring trip with the band program. Refunds will be given in accordance with the timeline provided.

BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS

1. Students are expected to adhere to the "Code of Conduct" as detailed in the MHS student handbook.
2. Students are expected to participate in band activities with a supportive and positive spirit.
3. Students are expected to treat all directors, instructors, and clinicians with courtesy and respect. They are expected to respond appropriately to instruction with positive verbiage.
4. Negatively-charged verbal displays or nonverbal actions are considered inappropriate. **This policy also applies to the internet.** Students are expected to maintain a mature level of decorum at all times while representing the Memorial High School Band. *"When you have class it shows, when you don't, it SHOUTS!"*
5. Each student is expected to be in class, in the rehearsal setting, or present for travel or performances on time and with the required equipment and materials.
6. Cell phones and other mobile electronic devices are not permitted during the school day, during rehearsals, or performances.
7. Gum, candy, soft drinks, and other food items are prohibited in all band areas.
8. Students are expected to help maintain a clean environment in facilities and during travel scenarios.
9. Students are expected to take proper care of all band equipment, including band instruments, music, uniforms, and facilities.
10. Rough-housing/horseplay of any form is prohibited.
11. Students should refrain from public displays of affection during all rehearsal and performance situations. Additionally, displays should never exceed that of static hand-holding in any setting.
12. Students are expected to seek parental permission before riding in friends' vehicles to or from any band-related activity. The allowance of vehicles on campus is a privilege. Irresponsible operation of a vehicle will result the loss of driving privileges on campus.
13. Students are expected to refrain from the use of degrading verbiage, profanity, and/or obscene gestures. Harassment of any form will not be tolerated.
14. Any form of hazing is strictly prohibited.
15. Use of illegal drugs, tobacco products, alcohol, and unauthorized medications are prohibited.

ONLINE SOCIAL NETWORK, DISCUSSION BOARDS and FORUMS

Online social networks are more prevalent and useful than ever before. However, the reputation of the Memorial High School Band program and its' members are more public. As members of this organization, both students AND parents are held to a higher standard in online correspondence and postings. The following policies apply to all MHS Band students:

- 1) No negative or derogatory comments will be posted about fellow Band members, the band program, parents, staff, MHS administration, or FFC8.
 - 2) No derogatory comments will be posted about other band programs, directors, or its' members
 - 3) MHS Band students will not reply to a negative or derogatory posting by students of another school.
 - 4) Students should be careful about what photos are posted. Any MHS band student seen in a picture with an illegal substance or in a compromising position may be subject to the detrimental behavior policy.
 - 5) In addition, due to copyright infringement policies, members of the Memorial Band are expected to refrain from posting videos of the marching and concert performances on video forums such as YouTube, etc.
- Failure to abide by these policies may result in, but are not limited to: lowering of band placement, removal of leadership status, and/or removal from the band program.

DETRIMENTAL BEHAVIOR POLICY

Being a member of the Memorial Band program is a privilege, not a right. There are various electives a student may participate in at MHS. Because the band is an extremely visible representative of the school, and because we must trust students to behave properly in various situations, both in school and while traveling, the directors reserve the right to remove students from the band program whose behavior includes, but is not limited to:

- Vandalism
- Theft
- Substance abuse
- Insubordination
- Bringing humiliation, embarrassment or danger to themselves or others
- Excessive ineligibility
- Deliberately disobeying rules while traveling or in class
- Unexcused absence from performance of any kind

Any student who quits the Memorial Band program voluntarily or who is removed for violating the detrimental behavior policy will not be permitted to audition or apply for reinstatement to the program for the remainder of their time at Memorial High School.

CONCERT ETIQUETTE

Audience manners are an expression of courtesy and respect for performers and others in the audience. Young people in our society are seldom exposed to formal concert situations and are often not aware of the standards of appropriate behavior. By following these guidelines you can set a proper example for our students and make the concert more enjoyable for all. Thank you for your assistance.

- Avoid entering or leaving the venue during a performance. If you find this necessary, move only between pieces.
- Talking is inappropriate during a performance. Young children who are talking or crying should be escorted from the performance area.
- Cell phones, pagers and other electronic devices should be silenced. Such noise can be very distracting and ruin a band's performance and recording.
- In true formal concert etiquette, photography is strictly prohibited. In the middle school setting we understand parents would like to have pictures as mementos, so we urge you to use the following guidelines. No flash photography during the

band's performance, as flashes are distracting to the performing band members and to the audience. If you would like to use flash photography please do so before or after the performance.

FOOTBALL GAME ETIQUETTE

Varsity football games are highly visible and public performance venues for the Memorial High School marching band. It is imperative that students remain attentive and focused within the ensemble to help insure the intended functions of the band at these games: 1) to provide musical support to the varsity football team, and 2) to provide a quality and noteworthy halftime performance. Behavioral infractions are considered particularly serious in such a public setting. Therefore, the handling of disciplinary issues will be treated as such. As the ensemble is under the public eye, students must maintain a professional and dignified appearance at all times.

Game time spirit in the form of verbal or physical encouragement should include the use of good judgment and taste at all times.

- *Behavior in the stands (including pep rallies) –The implementation of the following behavioral guidelines help to insure that the Memorial Band is able to provide outstanding performances on and off the field:*
- Each band member is to remain in his or her assigned seat during the entire game.
- Restroom visits are granted only by securing permission from a band director.
- Band members must be ready to play immediately following a tune request.
- Students must pay attention to drum majors/directors for visual cues so that professional musical entrances are always achieved.
- The marching band uniform must be worn in its entirety unless specific instructions from directors indicate otherwise.
- The marching band (including all sections within) should present only organized musical efforts.
- There are to be no spontaneous 'hacking' or jam sessions by individuals or sections either in the stands or en route to or from the performance.
- Students should play with their printed music at all times and without exception.
- Parts should be played exactly as written.
- Water is the only drink to be consumed in uniform unless alternate hydration is provided to everyone.
- Students will be formally dismissed as a group after the game.
- Cell phones are prohibited any time while the band is in session. Attempted use will result in the temporary confiscation of the device.
- The Memorial Band performance begins during the pre-game activities, continues through all 4 quarters of the game and includes the performance at half-time.

Students should be polite to everyone in manner and in speech; however, they should avoid being too sociable in performance settings. Once preparation for a performance of any sort has begun, members should avoid contact with other band members, family members, friends, girlfriend/boyfriends, etc., and should be focused on a section leader, drum major, or director. Visits should follow performances and be kept brief. (Students should not make conversation with members from other bands prior to performances). Visitors will only be allowed into the band set-up with a director's approval. While watching other bands perform, members should remain silent, attentive, and should avoid visual or verbal criticism of any sort in public (**THESE THINGS ARE REALLY NOTICED BY OTHERS**). When a band finishes a performance, **enthusiastic** applause and **acknowledgement** is **ALWAYS** appropriate and **EXPECTED**.

GUIDE TO THE ART OF PRACTICING

The purpose of this guide is to provide information on exactly what each student should be doing on their instrument.

When to Practice:

1. Approximately the same time every day in 30-60 minute intervals.
2. At a time when you are physically and mentally alert.
3. At a time when there will be the least amount of distractions.

Practicing at the same time every day helps establish a set routine. Also, there are fewer interruptions if both family and friends know that a certain time has been set aside for practicing.

Where to Practice:

1. In a place as free as possible from TV, phone, stereo, other people, etc...
2. In a place that is neither too "live" or too "dead" acoustically.
3. In a place where the student feels comfortable.

It is important that each student have a comfortable, distraction free environment in which to learn.

Equipment:

1. A chair with a straight back and no arms.
2. A music stand.
3. A mirror.
4. A metronome.
5. A means to record.

In order for the student to develop good posture, it is important for a good chair and music stand to be provided. The mirror is for viewing hand, embouchure, and body position. The metronome will develop and reinforce good rhythm and pulse while the recorder will show the student what they really sound like.

What to Practice:

1. Warm-up materials - long tones, slurs, scales, etc.
2. Band music - band pieces, test material, All-District/Region music, etc.
3. Private lesson music - assigned by private lesson teacher.
4. Sight-reading - use an etude or song book.
5. Student music - play anything for enjoyment.

Practicing consistently at 60 minutes per day is optimum.

No, there aren't practice logs, records, or journals, but if you don't practice everyone will know because you will dictate a slower pace to EVERYTHING the band is trying to do. Don't be that person.

A NOTE TO PARENTS

Parent involvement and interest in their student's musical growth can be the single most important factor in their total music education. When parents are actively involved in their student's musical endeavors, the chances for success are exponentially greater than for the student whose parents show little or no interest at all. Students are learning more in the band hall than how to just blow a horn and beat a drum. They are developing "life skills" such as discipline, teamwork, responsibility, self-confidence, social skills, and critical-thinking skills. It is the goal of the MHS Band Staff to help each student develop in these areas and we know if we work with you as a team we can be successful. Many times parents say things like: "The only thing I ever learned to play was the radio," or "I couldn't carry a tune in a bucket!" For those of you who feel you fit in this category here's some good news... it doesn't matter! What is important is that through your actions, you show your student that you care about their musical development. There are many ways to do this. You can show your support by attending concerts and contests and by attending civic and community or professional performances with your student. As much as possible, try to provide equipment and or accessories that they may need and give them a productive place in which to practice. Praise your student when they practice regularly and offer a little positive reinforcement when they don't. Ask your student how things are going in band class and have them play for you what they are working on. Parents do not need any prior musical experience in order to effectively support their student's development.

The directors, through this handbook, phone calls, emails, the website, and CHARMS, want to foster effective communication between the staff and parents. The goal is to keep you informed about your student's band activities so as to facilitate your involvement in their musical education. As always, our preferred method of communication is directly with students as we believe it helps teach them effective communication skills necessary for success beyond high school. Remember, you can be the most important figure in your student's musical growth, and if we work together we can make your student's experience in the Memorial Band a success!

Congratulations on being a part of an outstanding organization. Working together to make music is a joy and a privilege, and we are so pleased you will be with us on this journey!