

THE
**MOUNT CARMEL
AREA
HIGH SCHOOL
BAND**



**STUDENT
HANDBOOK**

MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Mount Carmel Area High School Band is open to any Mount Carmel Area student, grades 8 through 12, who demonstrates high school-level playing ability on any band instrument. Occasionally seventh grade students are asked to participate in marching band according to the needs of the band and the playing ability of the student. Membership in band requires the student to participate in both football marching band and symphonic band, or junior high band for seventh graders.

Membership in any other instrumental ensemble is voluntary and subject to the approval of the band director. A student **must** be a member of the high school band in order to participate in any other instrumental ensemble or in any PMEA or honors instrumental ensemble.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

Band is a graded, co-curricular academic class at MCA, and **does not** follow the same academic requirements as sports and other **extra-curricular** activities.

BAND LESSON POLICY

- All students must attend their regularly scheduled band lesson, which rotates according to the schedule prepared by the band director. If a student is taking a test, they are excused from the band lesson. However, they must inform the band director in advance of the lesson. This is the responsibility of the student. Schedules are provided to all teachers, and extra copies will be available to students who want them.
- If a student is struggling in a class, they will be excused from their band lesson. However, the student must provide the band director with a note stating such signed by a parent/guardian, including their phone number. The teacher of the class in which the student is struggling should also initial this note.
- After the third time a student does not arrive for their band lesson and must be called out of class, and has not made the above arrangements, they will lose one point from their grade. This deduction will take place after the student's grade has been calculated based on the following criteria: performance, attendance, test or quiz grades, playing grades, and class participation.

Rotating band lessons are common practice in most schools, and many of them have much stricter attendance policies than Mount Carmel Area's.

This policy has been approved by the administration, and has been added to the band handbook. It went into effect April 1, 2005.

ATTENDANCE

All band members must attend ALL band activities-all performances (including parades), rehearsals, meetings, trips, AND all fund-raising activities. If a band member chooses to participate in another activity, school related or not (such as athletics, cheerleading, musical, etc.) the following rules apply:

- If band practice and practice for the other activity happens to be at the same time, the student must come to band.
- If band practice and a "performance" (game, show, meet, etc.) of the other activity happen at the same time, the student should attend the other activity.
- If a band performance (including parades) occurs at the same time that another activity has practice or a performance, the student must come to band. The band director has been known to be flexible in this area with students who do not abuse the rules.
- If a student works, they must inform their employer that they are in the band and an attempt should be made not to be scheduled for work when a band activity (performance, rehearsal, etc.) takes place. Please note: **Work is not a legitimate excuse for missing band.**

Transportation to and from band activities is the responsibility of the band member. "Not having a ride" is not a legitimate excuse. Carpooling is suggested.

An unexcused absence from **any** band activity will result in a reduction in the student's grade and a parental

contact. Habitual unexcused absences or tardiness can result in **permanent dismissal from band.**

MUSICIANSHIP

The band staff will determine the level of musicianship of the band and its individual members. If an individual member or section of the band is/are not doing their best musically, the student(s) grade will be affected and the band director will contact the parents. The band director must approve participation in honors groups such as District Band or Honors Bands.

UNIFORMS

Band members are responsible for all uniform parts as per the instructions given to them by the uniform committee. All uniforms must be clean and worn in their entirety for all performances. Periodic inspections will be made by the band director and members of the uniform committee and referred to the parents for attention. If, after contacting the parents proper steps are not taken to assure the cleanliness and completeness of the uniform, the student will pay for the damaged/missing uniform parts and may be dismissed from band.

INSTRUMENTS

Any student issued a school instrument will be responsible to keep it clean, working and in good shape. The school will pay for normal maintenance, but the student will pay for any misuse or damage.

Personally owned instruments will be the responsibility of the student. Misuse or abuse of personally owned instruments will be reported to the parents.

Students may store their instruments in the band room **at their own risk.**

MUSIC

Students will be given music for both marching and concert band. It is their responsibility to see to it that it is not lost, stolen or destroyed. Replacement parts will be given only after every effort has been made to recover lost parts.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

All money for fundraising, uniform parts, etc. should **not** be turned in to the band director. He will not accept it. All monies should be turned in to the financial officer(s) of the Band Parents Association.

The band director will accept only money for reeds, valve oil, repairs, etc. All instrument supplies and repairs must be paid in advance. Any outstanding bills will be forwarded to the principal for further collection. All band members must participate in all general account fundraisers.

BAND ROOM

Students should not leave their instrument, music, or any other personal property on a chair, on the floor, or on a music stand in the band room without prior permission from the band director.

Any students caught littering or disorganizing the band room in any way will stay after practice or school to clean the entire band room.

Any student caught defacing the band room or its contents, or destroying any areas of the school will be subject

to dismissal, legal action, and/or whatever punishment is listed in the school district discipline policy.

BAND TRUCK

John Jacoby, the band staff, the band parents, and members of the pit will be in charge of loading and unloading the band truck. Only drums, low brass instruments, mellophones, baritone & tenor sax, color guard, honor guard, and pit equipment will be carried on the truck.

FOOTBALL GAMES

- All band members will sit in sections according to their instrument.
- All band members must play in the stands.
- Improper behavior will not be tolerated.
- **No food or drink in the stands when in uniform.**
- Band members, staff, chaperones, and band alumni only may sit with the band.
- Band members will be dismissed for the third quarter of a football game. Anyone who returns late will lose that privilege for the next game. Repeated abuse of this rule will result in parental contact and possible dismissal.

STAFF AND CHAPERONES

All staff members should be treated with respect and their instructions should be followed at all times. Any problems with the staff should be reported directly to the band director.

The chaperones' authority should **never** be challenged. They are responsible to see to it that you are safe and that you

behave. Any problems should be reported directly to the band director. Remember: Always respect your elders.

The drum major(s), band officers, and section leaders are the student leaders. They should be respected and listened to. The band director expects all band members to do so.

GENERAL BEHAVIOR

Students are reminded that they represent the MCA Band and School District and must behave like professionals at all times. No fighting, cursing, tobacco use, alcohol use, drug use, disrespectful behavior, or property destruction will be tolerated.

Students, parents, and staff should be reminded that the band director is in charge. He/she has final say on all matters pertaining to the band.

If these simple rules are strictly adhered to, the students will enjoy and remember their years with the band forever.

This policy has the approval of the Mount Carmel Area School District.

June 1992
rev. August 1999
rev. June 2001
rev. June 2004
rev. June 2005
rev. June 2010
rev. June 2017