Mountain Ridge High School Bands

Student and Parent Handbook

Mountain Ridge High School Bands
22800 N 67th Ave
Glendale, AZ 85310
(623) 376-3171

www.mrhsband.net

MOUNTAIN RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL
22800 North 67th Avenue • Glendale, AZ 85310
623-376-3000 • FAX 623-780-3939

Aaron Vogel, Director of Bands • 623-376-3171 (office)
E-Mail: Aaron.Vogel@dvusd.org

Dear Pride of the West Members and Parents,

Welcome to the Mountain Ridge High School Band and Guard program! We refer to our programs collectively as "The Band Program" and are known as "The Pride of the West" for our excellence in performance and character. We have developed this ***Handbook*** to help students AND parents gain a better understanding of the workings of the Band program, what we do, how we do it, and your responsibility to the success of the program.

To the Students:
This ***Handbook*** is designed to give you information that will enable you to have a highly successful year as a member of the MRHS Band program, and to have a better understanding of what it means to be a Band Member. *Please read this handbook carefully* so that you may understand what is expected of you as a Band Member and what you can expect from the Band program in return. The success of YOUR Band program requires that YOU be 100% dedicated to doing your part to ensure that success. YOU are the most important part of the Band program, and the guidelines, regulations, and information contained in the ***Handbook*** are designed to help YOU ensure the success of YOUR Band!

To the Parents:
The success your child enjoys in Band is largely due to your support as a parent. Encourage your child to practice regularly at home, and see to it that they are prepared and punctual for rehearsals and performances. If possible, arrange for private lessons and show your support by enthusiastically attending every performance. *You are their most important audience!*

In addition, your role in the success of the Band program is immeasurable. No large organization can achieve success without the help of dedicated, enthusiastic, and caring individuals who are willing to help behind the scenes with all that goes into a successful Band program. From attending monthly meetings, to fitting uniforms, to helping raise funds, to moving equipment on performance days, chaperoning trips, cooking, sewing, or cheering enthusiastically in the stands, the more you give, the more you get. The Band program simply cannot survive without the help of a strong, dedicated parent organization and at Mountain Ridge, this is known as our "Band-Aides" and "Ridge Roadies."

Finally, I am dedicated to the success of the Mountain Ridge High School Band program. I will strive for excellence in all aspects of the organization, and will work to communicate information efficiently and effectively, to conduct rehearsals in a positive and productive manner, and to model the ideals of integrity, responsibility, attitude, passion, and character for which I believe the Band program stands.

Sincerely,

Aaron Vogel, Director of Bands

Table of Contents

Welcome and Introduction – 2
Table of Contents – 3
Band Office – 4
Communication – 4-5
- Band Office
- Website
- YouTube
- Charms
- Email
- The Fanfare!
- Slack
- Canvas
- Facebook
- Twitter
- Parent Meetings
- Pride of the West 101
- Band Aides Monthly Meetings

Student Organization – 6
- Drum Majors
- Section Leaders
- Band Leadership Team

Band Aides / Ridge Roadies - 7
The Schedule – 8-10
- Spring Training
- Virtual Rehearsals
- Start-Up Day
- Summer Sectionals
- Band Camp
- Fall Season
- General Rehearsal Guidelines
- What to Bring to Rehearsal
- About the Schedule
- Start/End Times

Performance Conduct – 11
Uniform Etiquette – 11
Travel To/From Performances 12
Marching Band Shadows - 12
Missed Performances - 13
Lettering in Band – 13
Band Fees – 14
Tax Credit - 15
Tax Credit Web Instructions - 15
School-owned Instruments - 16
Intro to Competitions – 17
Adjudication Criteria – 18
Notes - 19

Band Office

Aaron Vogel, Director of Bands
Mountain Ridge High School
22800 N 67th Ave
Glendale, AZ 85310

Phone: (623) 376-3171
MRHS Main Office Phone: (623)-376-3000
Email: aaron.vogel@dvusd.org

Communication

The MRHS Band program has developed several means of relaying important information to students and parents. Each of the following are important links between the Band Director, students, and parents. Please make a note of each our communication lines and stay in the loop.

The Band Office:
Call, email or slack the Band Office with questions for Mr. Vogel, or if you should have a conflict. The most reliable way to contact Mr. Vogel is through the slack app.

The Band Website: www.mrhsband.net
Please take a few minutes to visit the Band website. It has a ton of information about the Band!

YouTube Page: www.youtube.com/c/mrhsband
Subscribe and watch the incredible history, both past and present of the Ridge Bands through featured videos and playlists.

Charms: www.charmsoffice.com
The Charms site is packed with information designed specifically to help keep students and parents up to date with all of the many Band activities, post announcements and schedules, and financial information. Make the Charms site your first stop for information about the Band and check it often - it is updated regularly! New students will be set up after they turn in their medical form. Login: mountainridgeband Questions? e-mail charms@mrhsbandaides.com

Email:
Email has proven to be one of the most effective methods of communication for the Band program. During the school year, we will send out a weekly email update of announcements (The Fanfare!), information about events, schedules, and/or other news. Please help me get important information to you by ensuring that I have ***accurate, up-to-date email addresses*** for students and parents. Additions/corrections should be sent to charms@mrhsbandaides.com.

The Fanfare!:

The ***Fanfare!*** is a weekly announcement bulletin sent to all on the Band student and parent email list, and is available on the #info channel on Slack. Most often, the ***Fanfare!*** will serve to remind students and parents about upcoming performances, meetings, and announcements, or will direct you to the Band website for further information. A couple of minutes to read through the ***Fanfare!*** on the part of students AND parents will go miles towards keeping everyone informed about all of the great activity within the Band program.

Slack

Slack is the app the Band uses to share information, post announcements, post videos of choreography, and direct message individuals and small groups. To access on your computer, go to ***mrhsband.slack.com.*** To access on your mobile device: download the app Slack use the team name ***MRHS Band.*** Email Mr. Vogel if you need an invite link.

Canvas

Our primary online learning platform is Canvas. Students - If the Canvas app on your phone/ iPad is being flaky, go to dvusd.instructure.com on your iPad. Parents - You can enroll in Canvas and pair with your student as an "observer." Detailed instructions are listed on the MRHS Website www.dvusd.org/Page/65252

"***Mountain Ridge Bands" page on Facebook***:

The MRHS Band has a page on Facebook as do the Ridge Roadies. Click the link on the Band homepage and "Like" us on Facebook!

Follow us on Twitter "@mrhsbandsaz":

The Mountain Ridge Band is on Twitter! Follow us "at MRHS Bands AZ"

Band Student / Parent Meetings

These meetings are specifically designed for the students and parents. You will hear the plans for upcoming events, what our needs are, and how we plan to meet those needs. This is also where I will address the "business" of running a Band program, go through the expectations of the program, procedures and information, and answering questions.

Pride of the West 101:

This is for new parents to the MRHS Band/Guard, and to parents who have been in the program but would like to learn more. This 'class' will be for anyone to come and learn about how the program works and what to expect. We will cover things such as: Why do we fundraise? What happens at competitions? Who do I contact? etc.

Band-Aides Monthly Meetings:

These are monthly meetings for all parents to discuss this month's updates, calendar, and business and are typically on the 3rd Thursday of the month in room E-117.Attending the monthly meetings are one of the best ways for parents to stay involved, participate in discussion, have their opinions heard, see old friends, and meet new ones. It takes a village to make the Band successful! Every parent who is able should plan on serving. Without volunteers, nothing is possible, but with you everything is possible and it's fun to be around the students! Learn more about the Band-Aides on page 7 on this Handbook.

Student Organization

Drum Majors

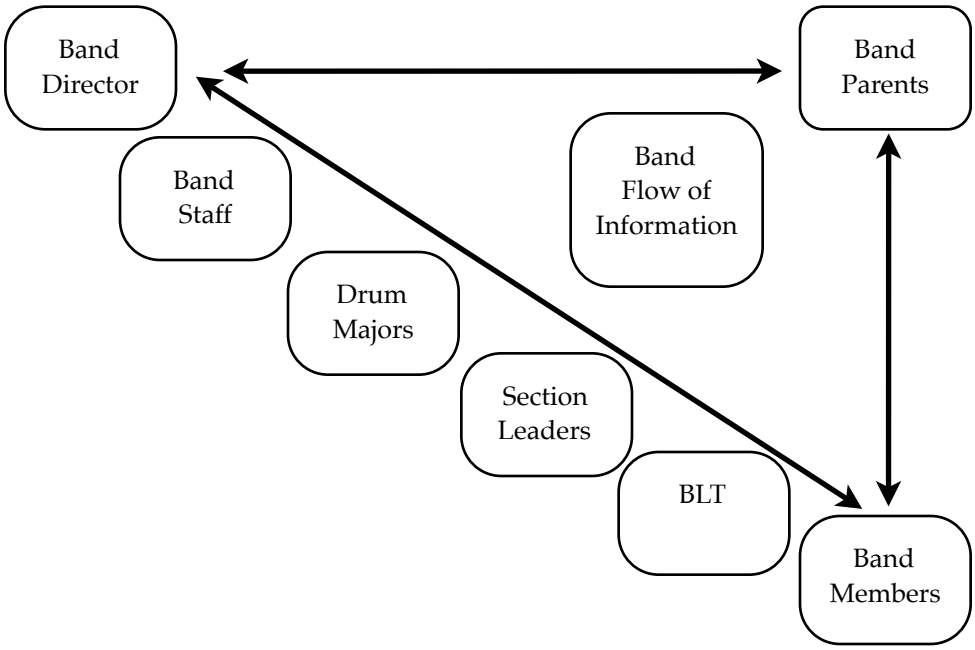
The *Drum Majors* are the student conductors of the Marching Band. The *Drum Majors* are selected for their experience and leadership within the Band program, and are given the responsibility of leading their peers in performance, rehearsal, and through their representation of the Band program on and off of the field. The *Drum Majors* are usually the first line of communication between the Director and the students of the Band during each rehearsal.

Section Leaders/Captains

The *Section Leaders/Captains* are responsible for coordinating each individual section of the Band and help the Band Director assess student performance, handle many of the day-to-day "nuts and bolts" of rehearsal, and also help with maintaining a productive atmosphere during rehearsal. *Section Leaders/Captains* may coordinate times outside of the full band rehearsal for their section to get together to work on music, marching, or other "social" events for your section to get to know each other.

Band Leadership Team (BLT)

The *Band Leadership Team* is comprised of veteran members of the Band who assist the *Section Leaders* and *Drum Majors*. These students are referred to as *Field Assistants* and are selected to the *BLT* based on their experience as performers and for their knowledge of how the Band program works. Students should use their *Section Leader* and *BLT* members as a resource for the Band program. If you have a question or a conflict, need help with a part or need a ride to rehearsal, your *Section Leader* or *BLT* member will probably have the answer.



Band Aides / Ridge Roadies

The Mountain Ridge High School Band Boosters are also known as the "Ridge Roadies" and are officially "MRHS Band Aides" having a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization designation.

The mission of the Band Aides is to support the variety of Band activities at MRHS including:

- Fund raising to help to support the endeavors of the Mountain Ridge Band.
- Provide adult support to the Band Director in the form of logistics, administrative assistance chaperones, field assistance and transportation support.
- Other activities as deemed necessary by the Band Director or the Board of Directors.

Memberships cost $10 per year and include a MRHS band sticker for your car (one free the first year of membership) and voting privileges.

The Band Aides members elect the following volunteer executive board positions: president, vice president, secretary, treasurer. Committee chairs make up the rest of the board. Regular board meetings and general meetings are held once a month (during the school year) to provide information and conduct non-profit band business affairs. They share information through an internal online application called 'Charms' which organizes the volunteer calendar and other business.

Band activities require numerous volunteers in a variety of functions to be successful. Additionally, the organization strives to create and foster better channels of communication among all MRHS Band parents, and to develop a sense of community and "esprit de corps" among the parents. We encourage all Band Parents to volunteer their time when able, as the services provided by the Band Parents are crucial to the success of the Band. Please consider helping with the following:

- ***ABODA/Rock the Ridge*** - provide support for hosting our biggest events.
- ***Concessions (home games)*** - coordinate the food and concession sales on campus.
- ***Uniforms / Plumes*** - maintain the uniform inventory and fit all students for their uniform. Needed for both Marching and Concert season. Plume Volunteers are responsible for the plumes (the expensive and delicate feathery sticks that go on the front of the uniform hats).
- ***Rope/Seating*** - rope off the seating area for the band at games and set up banners.
- ***Guard Helpers*** - assist the Guard in loading and carrying equipment and provide them water.
- ***Pit, Podiums & Staging Crew*** - involves the loading/unloading and transportation of equipment on show days, as well as the actual set-up and tear down during performances.
- ***Water & Ice*** - responsible for providing ice water, and disposable cups for games and practices.
- ***Equipment Trailer and Truck Driver*** - Volunteering a vehicle capable of towing ~7000 lbs to tow the Trailer, and Drivers to pick up the Budget truck(s), help load/unload, and drive to events.
- ***Food Committee*** - help coordinate the food needs of the Band for away games, competitions and at the middle school & K-8 (aka "feeder night") in the Fall.
- ***Chaperones/1st Aid*** - help supervise the students during travel to/from games & performances.

In addition to the committees above, we often have project-specific needs, such as business outreach, accounting, sewing, construction, grant-writing, office work, and much more that parents help with. Please let the Band Aides know of specific skills that may be of benefit to the Band program.

The Schedule

The Band program at Mountain Ridge High School is very active, especially during the fall. Having said that, the importance of the rehearsal schedule and monthly calendar of events and meetings cannot be overstated. PLEASE take time to look through the schedule, ***and I highly encourage all students and parents to "Subscribe" to the online (Charms) calendar.*** Once you subscribe, all Band events and activities will automatically update to your smart phone, tablet, home computer, etc. I try very hard to make as few changes as possible, and do my best to convey information about the schedule as many ways as possible. Keep the calendar handy and refer to it often.

"Percussion Spring Training" and "Spin Clinics"

These rehearsals are designed specifically for students who will be participating in the *Percussion or Color Guard* sections of the MRHS Marching Band, and occur throughout April and early May. These rehearsals allow the Band Staff to introduce the skills needed for performances in these sections, as well as accurately place individual students within each section. See the Band Calendar for specific times.

Pre-Season "Start-Up Day"

We will kick off the Marching Band season with one or two full band rehearsals. This is a great opportunity to meet your section members and lay a great foundation for success in the fall!

Drumline and Guard Summer Sectionals

These summer sectionals are designed specifically for students who will be participating in the *Percussion or Color Guard* sections of the MRHS Marching Band. Sectionals are scheduled throughout the summer months. See the Band Calendar for specific dates and times.

Woodwind and Brass Summer Sectionals

These summer sectionals are designed specifically for students who will be participating in the *Woodwind and Brass* sections of the MRHS Marching Band. Sectionals are scheduled by the section leader throughout the summer months, and are typically held off campus.

IYIT - "If You're In Town" Rehearsals

Throughout the summer, various "full band" and "sectional" rehearsals are scheduled to help prepare for the upcoming season. These are very important, as they help set the foundation for the Band in the fall. Emphasis is placed on proper technique (marching and playing), learning the music for the show as well as the stands, getting to know each other, and most importantly, developing a sense of community and family within the Band. Attendance is expected at all full band and sectional rehearsals. We understand that family trips and other conflicts come up, but we expect you to do your best to work with the schedule provided, and INFORM the Band Office of conflicts.

Band Camp!

Band Camp is probably the most important time for the Marching Band. The Band really comes together during this time, and we move into high gear with both the music and the marching programs. We start learning the drill for the show, memorize the music, and take care of all the "nuts and bolts" that need to be mastered before the school year kicks off. Band Camp sets the foundation for the entire fall season. If we get behind or don't have a successful camp, we spend the rest of the season playing catch-up. Attendance at Band Camp is REQUIRED and mandatory for participation in the MRHS Marching Band. Students who miss camp will not receive a spot in the marching show and will be placed on "alternate" status. Students with conflicts should contact the Band Office as soon as possible.

The Fall Season

Once school starts, the Band starts weekly rehearsals. *For the most part*, rehearsals are on Tuesdays and Thursdays nights from 6:00-9:00 p.m., and some Friday evenings and Saturday evenings. There are some exceptions to this rule due to holidays, sectional rehearsals, or other school functions, so check the calendar. This is the only time we put together the full Marching Band, so they are absolutely crucial to the success of the Band. Attendance at all rehearsals is REQUIRED. ***Participation in marching band is a curricular expectation of every Band student at Mountain Ridge High School**** Attendance will be taken just like any other class. If you miss a rehearsal, regardless of the excuse, you will lose the participation points for that day. Students with attendance problems may lose the privilege of performing on a full-time basis with the Marching Band.

**Marching Band is a required part of being in the Band at Mountain Ridge High School. Our marching season officially begins with Band Camp, and concludes following the State Championship performance OR last home football game/playoff appearance.

Some General Rehearsal Guidelines

- Be there. At every rehearsal.
- Look for reasons to come to rehearsal - not reasons to miss. Remember that an excuse is just that: an excuse. It may be a "great" excuse, but it doesn't change the fact that you're not there. Unsuccessful people have excuses, successful people have accomplishments.
- Be early to rehearsal. Allow time to gather your music and equipment, check in the Band room for instructions, and be in the proper place ahead of time. Students who are late should expect a consequence (i.e. running, push-ups).
- Talking must be kept to a minimum. Raise your hand during rehearsal to have questions answered.
- Be prepared to get something accomplished on every repetition of every rehearsal.
- Work hard to achieve our goals. If something is worth doing at all, it's worth doing well, and things worth doing well are seldom easy.

To be EARLY is to be on time.
To be on time is to be LATE.
To be late is to be WRONG!

What to Bring to Rehearsal

- Be early to rehearsal. Allow time to gather your music and equipment, check in the Band room for instructions, and be in the proper place ahead of time.
- All students need a mechanical pencil at each rehearsal.
- All students need a three-ring binder with sheet protectors for all hand-outs, including music, exercises, etc. The binder needs to be at every rehearsal.
- Marching Band students will need a flip folder and lyre for the "Stands Rotation" and all Stand tunes.
- Talking must be kept to a minimum. Raise your hand during rehearsal to have questions answered.
- WATER, WATER, WATER! Avoid caffeine (soda, coffee) prior to rehearsals. Caffeine leads to dehydration. Bring a water jug to rehearsal.
- SUNSCREEN, SUNSCREEN, SUNSCREEN! Especially at Band Camp.
- Wear comfortable, supportive tennis shoes. Sandals, flip-flops, clunky hard-soled shoes, or bare feet, are not acceptable at any time.
- Baseball hats, or wide-brimmed hats & sunglasses are <u>required</u> for daytime rehearsals.
- A positive attitude. Leave your problems at the door. Once you get to rehearsal, you are a part of the Mountain Ridge High School Band family. As such, you have an obligation to help your peers in any way possible. Start by coming to rehearsal ready to work hard and with a "Can Do" attitude that says "I'm willing to do whatever it takes!!"

Be prepared! This activity takes places outside, so plan for the weather. We do live in Arizona, so daytime rehearsals are going to be HOT! Bring plenty of sunscreen, sunglasses, and a hat. In the evenings it is always a good idea to have a light sweatshirt or jacket available in case it gets chilly. We will also have rehearsals where students are required to wear white T-shirts. This helps in the heat, but also helps give a uniform look to the Band.

Rehearsal Start/End Times

It is important to note that the times listed on the rehearsal schedule are *the start and end times of the actual Band rehearsal*. Just as with the school day or classes, students should arrive to the school a bit early in order to be in class on time. Also, just as at the end of the school day, it may take a few minutes to collect all their things, attend to personal business, meet with their section, or put away their equipment before they are ready to leave the school.

If rehearsal is scheduled to end at 9:00 p.m., parents should expect their student to be ready to leave anywhere from 5-15 minutes after that. Some students hang-out after rehearsal, and some days, your students' section will have a job to attend to at the end of rehearsal. The Band staff will do everything to ensure that rehearsal ends on time. In all honesty, we do that almost every time. Sometimes we do run a few minutes late. For that, you have my apologies in advance. Your patience, and understanding of what happens at the end of rehearsal, are appreciated.

Think of it this way: Have you ever had a family vacation that runs exactly on time, as planned, for the entire vacation? No? Now consider 200 teenage "family members"...

Performance Conduct

All members of the MRHS Band are expected to conduct themselves with the highest degree of integrity, professionalism, and character at all times when we are in public for a performance. Inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated at any time while in uniform or in public.

- The Bandroom on performance days is reserved for current members of the Band.
- Band members are expected to be in the Bandroom (or other designated area), dressed for the performance, with everything they need, at the designated call time.
- We will always move as a group, play as a group and sit as a group.
- Non-Band members are not allowed to sit with the Band.
- While at a performance venue, be considerate of other groups or ensembles that may be performing. Be attentive, considerate, and respectful. We expect them to do the same.
- Once the performance is complete and we return to MRHS, properly put away all equipment and your uniform. If an equipment truck is being used, all students will stay and help unload. Students are dismissed from the Band room once all equipment is unloaded, and all areas of the school that we have used have been cleaned and checked by the section leaders.

Uniform Etiquette

Being a part of the Mountain Ridge Band means that you are a member of one of the finest Bands in the State and are responsible for continuing our tradition of excellence in performance and appearance. The following guidelines are to be followed for both marching and concert uniforms:

- The uniform is designed for a specific, consistent image for the Band. Nothing is to be added to or subtracted from any individual uniform.
- Absolutely NO food, gum or drinks other than water AT ANY TIME while in uniform.
- The uniform is either on or off…never in-between (unless specified by the Director to be in "half uniform"). The uniform will be worn properly at all times.
- No baseball hats, tennis shoes, bright nail polish, hair dye, jewelry, etc. while in uniform.
- Students (male or female) with hair that extends below their collar will be asked to have their hair appropriately put up in a braid or a bun, no "water-spouts" or bows on top.
- No swearing or "public displays of affection" while in uniform.
- The uniform should be in the uniform bag during travel to/from performances, but should never be left in the uniform bag over night. A wet uniform can mildew quickly.
- Personal items should not be put into your uniform bag. All students need a backpack or shoulder bag for personal items on performance days.
- The formal marching uniform consists of bib pants, jacket, black MTX marching shoes, long black socks, the current year's band T-shirt, black gloves, and shako with wrap and plume.
- The formal concert attire is "concert black" and consists of a black long sleeved button up dress shirt or blouse (shoulders MUST be covered), solid black tie, black dress slacks, long black socks, black shoes.

Travel To/From Performances

DVUSD rules require that students ride district transportation to and from all interscholastic and/or DVUSD School sponsored activities. In the rare event that a student needs to make alternate travel arrangements, the student may be transported from a Band event by the parent/guardian, if approved by the Director. The Parent/Guardian must sign a completed DVUSD ***"Student Release Form Following An Off Campus Event***," available in Charms, in the presence of a DVUSD staff member. Permission will NOT be granted to any student wishing to drive to or from any off-campus Band event. The following rules are to be followed:

- Be prompt for all departures and respectful to the bus drivers and chaperones.
- Do not switch or change buses, move around, stand in the aisles or stand on the seats
- Do not play instruments, drum, sing loudly or yell on the bus. Unruly behavior is dangerous and not permitted.
- Use earbuds or headphones so music can only be heard by you.
- Keep all trash picked up. BLT is assigned to help sweep the bus at the end of each trip, but they should not have to pick up the trash of others.
- Everyone is expected to help load and unload equipment.
- No verbal or physical harassment, sexual conduct, contact, indecency or displays of affection will be tolerated.
- For the safety of all, we try to maintain line of sight for bus drivers and chaperones by keeping lights on if possible, and by not having hung up uniforms, blankets, jackets, etc.

Upon the group's return to MRHS, students are responsible for correctly securing their uniform, shako, etc. in the Uniform storage room, returning their instrument and all equipment to the correct place, and cleaning all areas used by the group.

Marching Band "Alternates"

Decisions about numbers for the drill have to be made early, and there is always some fluctuation in the enrollment over the summer. As a result, we have an ***understudy*** policy, which we refer to as ***"alternates"*** or ***"shadows,"*** in which the drill is written for a number slightly smaller in each section than the number of students enrolled. This ensures that we will not have any "holes" in the drill, and that students who are either not quite ready for the physical and/or musical demands, or who are excessively absent, still have the opportunity to participate in the Band while developing their skills for future participation.

Students who are listed as "alternates" (which could also include upperclassmen/veteran members of the Band) will continue to participate in all Band activities, including classes, all rehearsals and performances, but may not have a "marching spot" in the drill. I will make every effort to accommodate all alternates into the field show on a case-by-case basis, as student performance grows throughout the season.

Missed Performances

The Band performs as ONE GROUP. Every student is absolutely critical to the success of the whole. If you weren't needed, we wouldn't put you in the show in the first place! Therefore, attendance at all Band performances is REQUIRED, regardless of the performance activity or venue (ie: Pep Band, Concert Band, Competition, Football Game, Parade, etc.). Students who have an *absolutely unavoidable* conflict with a performance should contact the Band Office immediately (work, babysitting, etc., are not unavoidable!). Students may be given the opportunity to earn *partial* credit through completion of a music-related project, but the missed performance *will* have an impact on the students' final grade in Band.

Lettering in Band

Students can earn a school Letter Award through their participation in Band. Earning a Letter is not easy, and signifies achievement above and beyond the ordinary within the Band program. Band letters will be awarded to individuals who meet the following requirements:

Freshman

- Member in good standing of marching and concert band (1 year)
- Audition and selected to All-Region Band/Orchestra-and-
- Audition and selected to All-State Band/Orchestra-or-
- Audition and selected to All-State Jazz Band

Sophomore

- Member in good standing of marching and concert band (2 years)
- Audition and selected to All-Region Band/Orchestra-or-
- Audition and selected to All-State Band/Orchestra-or-
- Audition and selected to All-State Jazz Band

Junior/Senior

- Member in good standing of marching and concert band (3 years)

Color Guard Members who are not involved in another part of the Band program (Concert Band, Jazz, etc.) will earn a Letter in Band if they meet the following requirements:

- Member in good standing of marching band and winter guard (2 years)-or-
- Member in good standing of marching band (3 years)

Move-In Students: Each year there are a number of students who move-in from another school. While it is understood that many of you will have completed some sort of progress towards a letter at your previous school, ***points toward a School Letter from Mountain Ridge will only be awarded for activity AT Mountain Ridge.***

Band Fees

Students within the MRHS Band program are responsible for various fees and costs associated with their participation. Please look through these carefully, as not all apply to all students.

- ***Black MTX Marching Band Shoes***: (cost $40) All Marching Band wind and percussion students will purchase uniform marching shoes.

- ***Guard Shoes/Gloves/Flag Bag/Warm-ups***: (cost approx. $175) All Guard students will purchase uniform dance shoes/gloves, a flag bag and warm-ups.

- ***Gloves***: ($5/pair) Gloves are needed by Marching Band brass and woodwind players only.

- ***Long Black Socks:*** Long black socks are needed by Marching Band and Concert wind and percussion students.

- ***Concert Uniform***: All students in the Wind Ensemble will need a concert dress or tuxedo, long black socks and black shoes. If you cannot afford a tux, you can loan one from the high school but availability is limited. Students in all other concert ensembles will need "concert black" and consists of a black long sleeved button up dress shirt or blouse (shoulders MUST be covered), solid black tie, black dress slacks, long black socks, black shoes.

- ***Band Camp:*** ($300) This fee due in mid-July. The Band Camp fee pays for all lodging and meals at Pine Summit Camp, this year's show shirt (to be distributed at Camp), school bus transportation to and from Prescott, and the staff that work the camp.

- ***Fair Share Obligation***: ($500) The costs associated with providing a first-rate Band program exceed $85,000 per year! In an effort to help meet these financial needs, we are asking each student involved in the MRHS Marching Band contribute $400 towards their participation. Among other things, this program enables us to have:
    - Staff for marching and concert season
    - Custom drill/choreography written for next year's marching show
    - Equipment purchased, including flags, poles, uniforms, percussion equipment, etc.
    - Travel expenses/Festival registrations paid once the school travel budget is exhausted
    - Awards purchased at the end of the year
    - New music purchased for concert season

The Mountain Ridge High School Band program *will not* exclude participation to *any* student based on financial need or status. However, you must communicate with the Director any concerns about fees associated with participation in Band, and work out a payment plan so that we can budget accordingly. See the "lime" contract for more information. This is not meant to hinder your child from participating; this is just formalizing our fund-raising efforts.

Tax Credit

Arizona law provides a tax credit for contributions to public schools to support extracurricular activities. You can help the Mountain Ridge HS Band and possibly lower your tax bill by making a donation! This is available to ALL qualifying individual Arizona state taxpayers. You do not need to have a child enrolled in band, or even in a school to take advantage of this tax credit.

A tax credit is different from a deduction, because it comes back to you ***dollar-for-dollar.*** If you owe state tax, you may subtract the entire contribution from your Arizona state tax bill. If you don't owe or are expecting a refund , your contribution will come back to you in your refund. An individual may contribute as much as $200, and a couple filing jointly may contribute as much as $400 to a public school and receive the money back in the form of a tax credit.

Please consider completing a "***Tax Credit Form***", making your check payable to "MRHS Band" and having your contribution received by April 15, 2021 to receive the tax-credit. You can also contribute by using a credit card, or by visiting www.dvusd.org/taxcredit to make your contribution online (see below). Make sure to specify the School Name as "***Mountain Ridge***" and the Activity as ***"Band"*** Please note: contributions are non-refundable.

Tax Credit Web Instructions

1. Visit www.dvusd.org/taxcredit to make your contribution online.
2. Click on the link to make your ***"Online Donation Here"***

   If you are a DVUSD Parent…
3. the Username is your ***Student's ID #*** and Password is their ***Last Name.***
4. Once you have logged in to your student's account click on: ***"Items at your school"***
5. Select ***"Band"*** as the Item.
6. Click on: ***"Individual tax credit donation"***
7. Click on: ***"Charitable donations"***
8. After you have completed the online contribution, be certain to ***print a pdf of your receipt*** and send it to ***fairshare@mrhsbandaides.com.***

   If you are not a DVUSD Parent (great info for friends and family)…
3. Fill in your ***customer information***,
4. In the cart, select ***"Mountain Ridge High School"*** as the School and ***"Band"*** as the Item.
5. Click on: ***"Pay."***
6. Enter your payment information, then click "***Submit Payment***"
7. After you have completed the online contribution, be certain to ***print a pdf of your receipt*** and send it to ***fairshare@mrhsbandaides.com.***

School-Owned Instruments

The MRHS Band is fortunate to own an inventory of instruments. Students requiring the use of a school-owned instrument will be issued an instrument for use throughout the school year.

- ***Woodwind and brass instruments*** are available on a first come, first served basis during instrument checkout.
- Do not handle another Band student's instrument or equipment. Any student found to have mistreated, damaged, or destroyed facilities, equipment, or instruments will be held responsible for necessary repairs. "*If you break it…you buy it*."
- When not in use, school owned ***instruments/cases*** must be secured in their ***Band locker,*** or at home, with the locker locked (especially during class). Lockers must be kept clean, and are only designated for Band materials. Leave other items/valuables at home.
- Instruments may not leave campus without a completed and signed ***Instrument Loan Agreement Form.***
- Instruments must be properly and regularly maintained, and cleaned prior to check-in.
- Instruments that are not cleaned will be assessed a $25 cleaning fee.
- If the instrument is lost or damaged, the student must report it immediately to the Director.
- If the Director deems that proper care or maintenance of the instrument is not being maintained, the instrument will be remove from the student's possession.

An Intro to Our Competitions

The Arizona Band and Orchestra Director's Association (ABODA) is responsible for the coordination of most competitions within the state. Schools are assigned a classification (Division 1, 2, 3 or 4) based on the band size. State Champions are crowned each year in each division. Mountain Ridge is the 2019 ABODA State Champion in Division 1.

We also compete in the Bands of America (BOA) Regional Championships and the Arizona Marching Band Association (AzMBA). AzMBA crowns its own State Champion at the end of its competitive season. Mountain Ridge is the 2019 AzMBA State Champion in Division 4A.

"Highland Invitational" - Saturday, October 2, 2021
Contest Site: Highland HS Stadium, 4301 E Guadalupe Rd. Gilbert, AZ 85234

"Rock the Ridge Marching Invitational" – Saturday, October 16, 2021
Contest Site: Mountain Ridge HS Stadium, 22800 N 67th Ave., Glendale AZ 85310

"Corona Del Sol Marching Invitational" - Saturday, October 23, 2021
Contest Site: Corona Del Sol HS Stadium, 1001 E Knox Rd. Tempe, AZ 85284

"Barry Goldwater High School Marching Invitational" – Saturday, October 30, 2021
Contest Site: Barry Goldwater HS Stadium, 2820 W Rose Garden Ln, Phoenix, AZ 85027

"ABODA State Marching Band Semi-Finals— Division I" - Saturday, November 6, 2021
Contest Site: Hamilton HS Stadium, 3700 S Arizona Ave, Chandler, AZ 85248

"AzMBA Championships - Saturday, November 13, 2021
Contest Site: Perry HS Stadium, 1919 E Queen Creek Rd., Gilbert, AZ 85297

"ABODA State Marching Band Championships" - Saturday, November 21st
Contest Site: Glendale Community College Stadium, West Olive Avenue, Glendale, AZ

A (very) Brief Intro to How Bands are Judged

At each competition, a panel of 6 judges will be evaluating the band. Each judge is assigned to a specific "caption," and will be looking for achievement in very specific categories. Points are awarded based on levels of achievement within each "caption."

"*General Effect*" – 1 judge

- This judge is looking at how the overall musical and visual performance works together, the *emotional* impact of the performance as a whole, and the *creativity* and *pacing* of the program. In addition, the judge is looking for the effectiveness of the performers. Is each individual *communicating* their role? Are they consistently achieving a *projection of style*? Are they performing with *intensity* and *confidence?*

"*Music Performance*" – 2 music judges

- Each of these judges is looking at the level of achievement of the technical elements of the *musical* performance of the band. Is each individual playing *musically* with a *characteristic tone*? Are they *in-tune*? Is the ensemble playing *together* with outstanding *balance, blend, phrasing* and *dynamics*? Does the ensemble demonstrate superior *tempo control* and *uniform articulations, attacks* and *releases*? Can you hear every section?

"*Visual Performance*" – 1 judge

- This judge is looking at the level of achievement of the technical elements of the *visual* performance of the band. Is each individual student marching *in-time* with the *correct technique*? Are the *shoulders* and *instruments* all pointing the same way? Are the ensemble drill forms *clean* with accurate *spacing/interval* and *alignment*? Is the Guard use of *equipment, choreography*, *movement*, *dance* and *marching* consistent with the Band?

"*Percussion Performance*" – 1 judge

- This judge is looking at the level of achievement of the musical and technical elements of the *percussion* performance. Is each *individual* playing with the correct technique? Are the sections playing together and is the percussion *ensemble* (battery and pit sections) playing together? Are the performers executing *accurate rhythms* while maintaining *control* of the *tempo*.

"*Auxiliary Performance*" – 1 judge

- This judge is looking at the level of achievement of the expressive and technical elements of the *color guard* performance. Are the performers moving *together*? Are they projecting excellence in their *choreography* and *drill*? Is the equipment spinning *in-sync*? Are they performing with correct *technique* and *dynamic expression*?

All six judges scores are compiled to give a final score out of 100.

Notes