

## **Welcome!!!**

This is going to be an outstanding year for the Montgomery High School Symphonic Band. Through hard work and a lot of fun and love of music, we will create fantastic rehearsals and performances.

### **REQUIRED ITEMS FOR CLASS**

- **PENCIL!!!!** EVERY DAY, WITHOUT EXCEPTION
- **Chromatic Tuner** – every woodwind and brass student needs a chromatic tuner to complete some of the practice assignments given and tune every single day before rehearsal. If you don't already have a tuner, the least expensive, yet quality tuner is the Korg CA-30.
- **Chromatic tuner microphone** – this is a clip on microphone that goes on your instrument so you can tune while someone else is playing next to you. You should use this everyday at the beginning of class to make sure you are in tune before we begin to play as an ensemble.
- **Woodwinds** – quality reeds. DO NOT BUY RICO REGULAR CUT!! Vandoren is the best brand and Rico Royal is a good second. Reeds sold at the high school are for emergency situations only. We should not be considered your main source. Always have multiple reeds available to you and in use at one time.
- **Brass** – valve oil, slide oil, rags, etc. All tuning slides and valves must be in working order. Clean your instrument and oil/lubricate it regularly
- **Percussion** – percussionists need their own snare sticks. Brands and model numbers will be provided.
- **Music Folders** – every student must have their own folder and copy of the music in class each day, including percussion.

### **CLASS POLICIES**

- Be respectful of each other (this covers pretty much everything else)
- Be respectful to the music!!!!
- Silence to a musician is like a blank canvas to a painter. Let's not try and paint on a dirty canvas. Please limit talking to topics related to the rehearsal only. Also, please make sure any electronic devices that can create noise are shut off.
- Music stands are meant for holding music... not text books, phones, magazines, homework, etc.... you get the idea!
- There is absolutely NO GUM allowed in the music suite. Please spit it out on your way in.
- There should never be any food or beverages (except water) in the music suite.

## **Daily Procedures**

- The bell rings for the start of class at 8:53. Because it takes a few minutes to get your equipment out, we will be taking attendance at 8:57. You will be marked late if you are not in your seat with everything you need for class.
- Check the whiteboard on your way in for the order of everything we are doing during class. Have your music in order prior to our start time, 8:57.
- Empty cases need to go back into your locker. Close cage doors!
- Backpacks neatly lined against green lockers.
- WARM-UP
  - When you are seated, before 8:57, please do an individual warm-up. Proper warm-up exercises will be given to you.
  - When a teacher approaches the podium, please stop your individual warm-up and prepare for the band warm-up.
  - Percussion – Set up for the day immediately when you enter class. Then proceed to warm-up on a drum pad or mallet instrument. Proper warm-up materials will be given to you as well.
- END OF CLASS
  - All instruments returned to assigned cage with cage doors closed/locked.
  - Please return your folder to your assigned folder slot.
  - Percussion – All equipment returned to the proper place including all mallets, instrument covers, and the auxiliary percussion.
  - Please straighten your chair and stand for the next class.

## **Sectionals**

There will be times that you rehearse in small or large sectionals. These sectionals will take place in either the practice rooms or choir room depending upon the day. When you have a sectional, please follow these procedures:

- If you move a music stand or chair for the sectional, please put it back wherever you got it
- Percussionists, if any equipment is moved for the sectional, please make sure it is put back in the band room in the appropriate place.

## **CONCERT ATTIRE**

- Men – White button down long sleeve shirt with a collar, plain white undershirt, plain straight black tie, black formal pants (no jeans), black socks, black formal shoes (no sneakers)
- Women – White formal top, white undershirt, black formal skirt or pants, white or black formal shoes

## FACILITY USE

### Cages

You will be issued a locker to store your instrument and any other items you will need for band rehearsals. Please do not store clothes, books, food, etc. in these lockers. You MAY NOT use any lock except that which is given to you by the school. Any items stored in these cages not related to band may be thrown away. Cages must always remain closed. Do not keep your music in your cage. Please keep it in your folder slot!

### Band Room Usage

We have a beautiful, state of the art rehearsal hall, providing you with a comfortable place to have class. To keep it this way, there will be absolutely no food, drinks (except water), or gum allowed in the band room. At the end of each rehearsal, everything must be put away in its appropriate place. Additionally, students may not leave items in the band room that are not related to band rehearsals (books, lunches, gym clothes, etc.). A few band room policies that must be adhered to:

- All chairs and music stands will be placed exactly back in their spots at the end of each rehearsal. Music stands should be pushed all the way down.
- All cage doors must be closed, especially LOW BRASS and HORNS!!
- During rehearsal, all instrument cases and book bags must be kept either under your chair or in your cage. Please do not leave them in the back of the room. It makes it impossible for the percussion to move around.
- No non-band items may be stored in your cages.
- Anything that is left out (clothing, text books, etc.) will be collected and either thrown away or delivered to the office's lost and found.
- **Percussion: all equipment must be put away and COVERED at the end of rehearsal. Every percussionist is responsible for all of the equipment. You are a team.**

### Practice Rooms

The practice rooms are for student individual and sectional practice. Students may not use these rooms without permission from Mr. Brennan, Mr. Kahalehoe or Mr. Warshafsky. Students may reserve time to use these rooms during their lunch but may not eat in them. You are HIGHLY encouraged to use these rooms during the day. That's what they are there for. PLEASE PRACTICE!!!

### Music Library, Instrument Repair Room, and Storage Room

Students are not to be in any of these areas without permission from Mr. Brennan, Mr. Kahalehoe or Mr. Warshafsky.

### School Instrument Usage

The school instruments (including percussion and percussion sticks/mallets) are either new or relatively new and unblemished. For those students using them, it is a privilege extended to you and will last as long as proper respect is given to these instruments. Any student who misuses a school instrument will lose that privilege. **Any student who damages a school instrument will be responsible for the cost of repair to that instrument.** Parents of students who use a school instrument will need to sign a form that acknowledges financial responsibility for any damage that may occur.

### Seating Auditions for THIS school year (2018-2019)

Next week we will hand out a piece of music to be used as your seating audition. You will have 1 week to prepare and then we will start auditions the following week.

### Placement Auditions for NEXT school year (2019-2020)

Auditions for 2019-2020 band placements will take place after the winter break. Your audition materials will also be made available after winter break.

Placement for the 2019-2020 school year will be based upon the following:

- 60% - playing assessments during the first half of the year
- 40% - seating audition that will take place after the winter break

### Band Council

Each band (symphonic band, symphonic winds, wind ensemble) has representatives that meet together as a band council. The band council works on the following things:

- concert promotion
- fundraiser and event organization
- giving input on decisions regarding performances, class policies
- being representatives of the other band members to the directors
- helping the band directors to run classes and create exciting opportunities for the other students

## ***Music Assessments***

### **Individual Playing Assessments (IPA) – 20%**

About 2-3 times per marking period, we will listen to each student play their instrument individually and use the band performance rubric to assess them. These assessments can be on concert music, scales, or any other pedagogical skills we work on in class. Some of these assessments will be live and some will be recorded via digital recorders or Smart Music.

### **Ensemble Skills and Active Engagement – 35%**

A large portion of the band curriculum focuses on ensemble skills. By their nature, ensemble skills focus on group work and a student's ability to participate in that group work. Students begin each marking period with 90 points in this category (4 points each day). If a student is not prepared for class or is not participating fully, he/she will have 1-4 points deducted for that day as this prevents engagement in the ensemble. These are EASY POINTS!! They are yours to keep!! Examples of not being actively engaged include not having your music, forgetting your tuner, creating ancillary noise (rehearsal etiquette), and not being ready to play at the appropriate times. Most importantly, this involves ACTIVE LISTENING. Active listening is the process of analysis, critique, and musical evaluation you undergo each time sounds are made. It is crucial to your development as a thoughtful and artistic musician. Your active listening will be demonstrated through discussion in class, creative ideas for interpretation, and ability to understand the relationship of your part to others' and the piece as a whole. Listen and think about the music even if you are not playing!! There is no such thing as "resting" in music. Instead, we have intense moments of silent concentration and focus.

### **Homework and Self-Assessments - 10%**

Students will occasionally be asked to complete very simple assignments that are necessary to the operation of class. Additionally, students will receive rubrics to use as self-assessment tools to guide them in their practicing and performance. Students will also be asked to complete playing assignments on Smart Music to help us all assess our band's progress.

### **Graded Concerts and Rehearsals - 35%**

Graded rehearsals will take place at least once each marking period. Graded concerts will take place as concerts occur during the school year. A graded concert is defined as any public performance that is listed in this handbook. Graded rehearsals and concerts are a self-reflective process by the ensemble. The ensemble, together, will discuss the rehearsal and/or concert and each student will be asked to fill out a rubric that reflects their impression of the concert and/or rehearsal. The teacher will also fill out a rubric to compare with the students. The average grade of the rubric, in combination with a curve by the band director if necessary, will determine the concert or rehearsal grade. It is important to understand that concerts are GROUP projects. As such, students must be present to receive credit. One of the most important lessons students will learn in

band is the importance of relying upon each other and teamwork. Our class only functions successfully in this manner.

**NOTE:** If a student misses a graded concert, he/she will receive a zero (0) for that concert. This will have a detrimental effect on that student's grade. The only person who is allowed to excuse a student from a concert is the supervisor of visual and performing arts, Mr. Adam Warshafsky. Excuses have only been accepted in extreme cases of illness or family emergencies. Concerts are a time for us to celebrate the hard work we've been doing in class and the creativity we've discovered! The students in the band rely upon each other to be present at every performance. We hope all parents and students are excited to attend our concerts. Please mark your calendars with all concerts immediately upon receiving this handbook.

### ***Grade Policies***

Because grades should be seen as a doorway to future learning, the following policies are in effect:

1. **playing assessments** – if you receive a grade lower than a 90, you may retake the playing assessment once. You cannot receive higher than a 90 on the retake, but this will still be an improvement in your grade! You must talk to the band teachers to let them know you want to retake the assessment within 2 days of receiving your initial grade. Our goal is for everyone to be able to perform at the highest levels. If everyone gets an A, that means our band will sound even better!!
2. **self-assessments** – In order for assessments to help guide your learning effectively, you should receive them frequently. Unfortunately, the band teachers have limited time to conduct these assessments. Because of this, we will ask you to regularly assess yourselves using a rubric you'll be given.

## **PERFORMANCE DATES!!**

**MHS Fall Play Production**  
Time: 7pm  
**October 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

**CJMEA Region Band Auditions**  
For students interested in region band  
JP Stevens HS  
**December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

**MHS Winter Orchestra Concert**  
For students who play with the orchestra  
Concert time: 7:00pm  
**December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

**MHS Winter Band Concert**  
Concert time: 7:00pm  
**December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

**MHS Winter Choir Concert**  
Concert Time: 7:00pm  
**January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

**Band Rehearsathon**  
Report Time: 3pm  
**January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

**Philadelphia Orchestra Concert**  
Kimmel Center, Philadelphia  
Time, TBA  
**March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

**Music from the Heart!!**  
For students interested in an additional musical experience  
Important to our volunteerism efforts!  
Times, TBA  
**May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

**MHS Spring Orchestra Concert**  
For students who play with the orchestra  
Concert time: 7:00pm  
**May 21st, 2019**

**MHS Spring Band Concert**  
Concert time: 7:00pm  
**May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019**

**MHS Spring Choir Concert**  
Concert time: 7:00pm  
**June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

**MHS Graduation**  
Required for all students who make wind ensemble  
for the 2019-20 school year  
**June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

There may be additional required performances added to this calendar. On occasion the Symphonic Band receives performance invitations throughout the school year, and we usually accept those that are meaningful for the students. These performances will be scheduled with plenty of advance notice.

Parents,

Please fill out and return this portion to Mr. Brennan by September 13th, 2018.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, parent/guardian

*(please print)*

of \_\_\_\_\_, have read all the information

*(please print)*

above with my student and understand what is required of him/her. We understand the commitment to concert dates and the policies regarding attendance at all performances. We have marked these dates on our calendar and acknowledge that students must be in attendance at these performances.

Additionally, a significant amount of important information regarding our performances and events will come home through the MHS Band Parents Association (MHSBPA). As such, your email address that we have on file through Parent Resources will be used by the MHSBPA to communicate this important information. At any time, if you would like your email address removed from this list please let us know.

Please sign.

Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Student \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_