

Melrose High School Band Hand Book 2015 - 2016



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Mission Statement

The mission of the Melrose High School Band program is to give students a life defining experience through music. It is a place where students can belong, contribute, grow, and thrive as they navigate their way through high school.

The Melrose Band program provides an exciting and challenging learning environment. It promotes collaboration, creativity, and critical thinking, goal setting and achievement, and serves the City of Melrose with a variety of performances throughout the school year.

Goals

- To provide a comprehensive knowledge of a wide range of musical styles through the study, preparation, and performance of music.
- To provide an environment that promotes and encourages life-long learning and personal growth.
- To provide an opportunity for students to develop habits of discipline, organization, cooperation, teamwork, leadership, and excellence.

“Music expresses that which cannot be put into words and that which cannot remain silent.”

- Victor Hugo

Objectives

Mental and Physical Discipline

- Develop powers of concentration through practice and memorization
- Learn preparation skills and techniques as they relate to group and individual settings
- Develop self and group discipline as related to practicing individually and rehearsing as a group

Citizenship through Group Endeavor

- Develop leadership abilities
- Develop the ability to cooperate with others and to work as a team member

Physical Conditioning

- Develop strength, stamina, endurance, and coordination to be able to rehearse and perform a marching band show.

Cultural Growth

- Attain knowledge of music history through performance of various types of instrumental literature

Music Theory

- Learn and utilize note values and rest
- Learn and utilize keys, key signatures, and scales
- Learn and utilize musical terms, signs, and symbols
- Develop the ability to recognize and tune intervals and harmony

Proper Instrumental Technique

- Care for the instrument properly
- Use correct posture and playing position
- Develop proper breathing techniques
- Develop correct embouchure/stick grip/hand position
- Develop a beautiful tone on your instrument
- Develop technical instrumental proficiency (fingering, articulation, rudiments, scales, etc.)

Creative self-expression

- Express oneself through performance experiences

Ensembles

Marching Band

The Melrose High School Marching Band has a strong tradition in the City of Melrose. The Marching Band provides students with many performance opportunities at home football games, parades, ceremonies, and competitions. Band camp is an intensive week of musical rehearsal and drill practice the week before school starts every August. Once the school year begins we rehearse every Wednesday night 6:00 - 9:00pm and Saturday afternoons 12:00 - 4:00pm through the end of October. Marching Band provides students with additional opportunities for leadership roles, team work/building exercises, physical training, and performances in many different venues. Performance dates can be found on the website - www.melroseband.com

High School Concert Band

Concert Band begins at the conclusion of the Marching Band season. Students are required to audition for seating. Audition material will be chosen from music for the *Band Night* concert, which will be made available in the DropBox sometime in mid-October, along with scales and rhythm. It is each student's responsibility to prepare this material on their own with the intent of demonstrating his or her ability on music we have not yet rehearsed.

The Concert Band gives two major concerts a year - *Band Night* and *Pops Night* - in March and May respectively. Concert Band is intended to expose students to a variety of literature from the band repertoire to further develop their knowledge and understanding of this art form. Performance dates can be found on the website - www.melroseband.com

Jazz Band

Jazz Band starts in the winter and is by audition only. The Jazz Band gives three performances each year, all in the spring - *Band Night*, *Celebrate the Arts*, and *Pops Night*. The Jazz Band gives students more individual responsibility as it is often one person on a part and the music involves more complex ideas and notation than seen in Concert Band. Jazz has many unique styles for students to learn and

be exposed to and gives students room for creative expression through improvisation. Performance dates can be found on the website - www.melroseband.com

Contact Information

The band program encourages communication and Mr. Repucci will discuss any aspect of a student's progress in band with his/her parents or guardians. To contact Mr. Repucci directly he can be reached at: 781-462-4292 or by email at: mrepucci@melroseschools.com. Office hours are Monday and Wednesday from 2:15 - 2:45pm. Other times may be arranged as requested.

Information, dates, and forms can be found on the website: www.melroseband.org

Our parent volunteer organization is the Melrose Bandaiders. They are a non-profit organization that supports the band program. Parents welcomed and encouraged to get involved and attend monthly meetings.

You will receive updates, information, and band news from Jane Wiesen, the volunteer Corresponding Secretary for the Melrose Bandaiders. Please make sure she has your email address. She can be reached at: melroseband@gmail.com.

All high school students should be signed up for the "Remind" text message system by texting: @mhsb to 81010. Parents are welcome to sign up for this as well.

Conduct/Expectations

Band members ARE the band and are therefore always representing both the band, the school, and the Melrose community. As one of Melrose's most treasured traditions we strive to maintain and grow our positive image wherever we travel as a team and as individuals. Membership in the band is a privilege and it is expected that students will observe all school rules of conduct as well as those outlined below.

- It is recommended that you show up 15 minutes early to set up and be ready to start on time.

- Students will follow the Band Director's and instructors' directions.
- Students will contribute to rehearsals and performances by being prepared, attentive, and ready to cooperate and participate.
- Students will be in their assigned rehearsal area ready to work at the set rehearsal time with all equipment, including: music, pencil, instrument, and all necessary accessories/supplies.
- Students will not use or play on equipment they do not own without permission from the director.
- Students will not touch, handle, or use anyone else's instrument, uniform, or personal belongs (without consent).
- Students will return their own equipment to its proper storage place when not in use. Students should keep storage spaces clean and organized.

Attendance

In order to build and maintain a high quality program attendance from all members is essential. It is recommended that band members be at rehearsals and performances. All absences must have prior approval by Mr. Repucci.

There is Google Form that students/parents must fill out for every event that the student will miss or be late to. Please fill this out as soon as possible.

Recommended Daily Supplies

The following list is what each student should plan to bring to rehearsal and/or performance(s). Accessory items can be purchased at Music and Arts, most local music shops, or through the Band Director (valve oil, cork grease, reeds). Any family with financial needs should contact Mr. Repucci at mrepucci@melroseschools.com.

- Music (provided by MPS)
- Pencil
- Instrument
- All supplies/accessories relative to their instrument
- Notebook/practice journal/assignment book
- All marching related equipment (marching band season)
- Dot book/drill chart/lanyard (marching band season)

Flutes

- Tuning and cleaning rods
- Cleaning cloth
- screwdriver set

Clarinets

- Three good playable reeds. (2.5 or higher)
- Reed guard
- Ligature
- Proper mouthpiece with cap
- Cleaning swab
- Cork grease

Saxes

- Three good playable reeds
- Reed guard
- Ligature
- Proper mouthpiece with cap
- Pad and neck saver
- Cleaning cloth

Trumpet/Baritone/Euphonium/Tuba

- Valve oil
- Mouthpiece (Bach or Stork 5C for Concert Band. Stork 5D for MB/Jazz Band)
- Mouthpiece brush
- Cleaning snake
- Polishing cloth
- B.E.R.P.

French Horn

- Valve/rotary oil
- Mouthpiece
- Mouthpiece brush
- Polishing cloth
- B.E.R.P.

Trombone

- Slide Cream
- Spray water bottle
- Mouthpiece
- Mouthpiece brush
- Polishing cloth
- B.E.R.P.

Percussion

- Snare sticks
- Music

Recommended Practice Supplies at Home

- Instrument
- Music stand
- Pencil
- An established practice area
- Metronome
- Practice notebook/log
- Music (provided)

School Owned Instruments

Melrose Public Schools has a limited number of instruments for students in need. Because of their high cost they *must be handled and maintained with extreme care!*

It is the student's job to take care of the instrument loaned to them. This includes basic daily maintenance such as oiling or greasing, regular cleaning of the instrument, and general overall care and protection of the instrument. If the instrument is damaged it is the responsibility of the student/parents to get the instrument repaired and cover all costs associated with returning the instrument in the same condition it was loaned out in.

Grading Guidelines

- Students are responsible for the following
- Learning to read music
- Learning musical terms
- Making progress on their instrument
- Playing in a group
- Performance Skills
- Learning scales
- Instrument care

Students will play the specified test material for the Director which will be combined with general playing observations/evaluations from the semester.

Midyear & Final Exams: Midyear and Final Exams will be given. These exams count as 10% of the respective semester grade. The average of the first and second quarter grades will count 90% in determining the first semester average.
 Q1 = 22.5% Q2 = 22.5% Midterm = 5% Q3 = 22.5% Q4 = 22.5%
 Final = 5%

Grade breakdown

- 80% - Ensemble playing
- 10% - Effort and participation
- 10% - Midyear/Final Exam grade

Practicing

Quite simply, practicing is “band homework”. Students should block off a total of 20 minutes in their day, 5 days a week. An excellent time management strategy is to schedule two 10 minute blocks of practicing. For example, practice for 10 minutes during lunch block and 10 minutes after dinner, or 10 minutes right after school and 10 minutes between other homework subjects to give yourself a different type of work to focus on. Many professional musicians advise to work in chunks like this. Pick a specific goal and work on it for 10 minutes, then move on to something else. If you are uncertain of what or how to practice consult with the Band Director for a personalized practice routine.

Concert Attire

**Financial assistance will be available for those who qualify.*

High School Concert Band

Boys: Black suit, white dress shirt, black bow tie, black dress shoes and black socks.

Girls: All black dress or dress pants, black stockings, black shoes.

High School Jazz Band

Boys and Girls: White tux shirt, black dress pants, black shoes and black socks. Red bow tie and cummerbund are provided.

Private Lessons

The Bandaiders organization has a music lesson reimbursement program. Details on the policy are outlined in the annual Band Book distributed each fall.

Students are encouraged to take private lessons on their instrument. Students who take private lessons often report a much more enjoyable experience in band and make significantly more progress during their school career. A list of teachers will be made available at the start of the year for those interested.

Marching Band

Rehearsals

- Respect everyone on the Marching Band field - we are all working toward the same goal.
- Prior to all rehearsals, eat healthy and drink plenty of water.
- Be punctual. Aim to arrive 15 minutes before practice begins. If you arrive at the start time of a rehearsal or performance you are actually late.
- At various times in a rehearsal, you may be asked to count out loud, sing, sizzle, clap, or some other “non-musical” method of rehearsal. Your 100% participation is expected.
- Fundamentals are the key to success. It is expected that block and warm ups will be performed with the same level of engagement and intent as the actual show.
- Pay attention to general instructions at all times. Listen attentively and respond appropriately.
- Have your DOT book with you at all times!
- Move when instructed - quickly and quietly.
- No Cell Phones!
- During rehearsals consider wearing sunscreen and bug repellent.
- Wear sturdy sneakers during all practices for your safety. NO flip flops or sandals.
- Attend sectionals organized by your section leader.
- Sunglasses are allowed when practicing outside during the day.

Health and Safety of Band Students

The health and safety of the students is our first priority. Instructors should be made personally aware if there is a medical issue that could impact a student's performance.

Nutrition and Hydration

It is important that students stay hydrated at all times. Marching band is a physical activity. Students should drink plenty of water before practice and have a

water bottle with them at practice. Do not show up to practice on an empty stomach! Bring a snack for during and after practice.

It is important for students to eat healthy and well balanced meals every day. During band camp, students need to eat a good breakfast every morning and bring their lunch with them for the 10am – 2pm session. There will be a 45 minute lunch break. Students should be sure to eat dinner before returning for the 5:30 practice.

Uniform Guidelines

Students are expected to follow the listed uniform guidelines.

- Every student will be fitted and assigned a uniform free of cost.
- Each student is responsible for taking proper care of their uniform throughout the season.
- This includes keeping it in the garment bag and hanging it up when not in use, keeping it free from damage and stains, ironing the pants, if necessary, before performances, and generally treating the uniform with respect.
- Always wear and treat your uniform with pride. The uniform should be worn as a complete unit at all times when in public. The only exception to this will be when a band staff member instructs you that you may remove your hat or coat.
- Jewelry, hair ribbons, bright colored nail polish, etc. are unacceptable while in uniform. These items hinder the uniform appearance of the band.
- Band members with long hair need to put it up under their hat during performances. Hair must not touch the collar of the jacket and must be above the top of the ear or pulled behind it. No visible hair on the forehead.
- No consumption of food or drinks (other than water) while in uniform without permission.
- Hats and plumes are to be kept in their respective boxes when not being used.
- Uniforms are to be kept at home, hung in the garment bag - not left in the band room.

Uniform Costs

Financial assistance will be available for those who qualify. If a uniform part is damaged or lost, the student will be responsible for the replacement costs. All marching uniforms need to be dry cleaned at the end of the season. Students must purchase their own marching shoes which can be obtained at National Music in

Woburn. Every student must also purchase a band polo shirt which will be worn for:

- Pep rallies
- Spirit days
- Memorial Day Parade

When worn as a uniform, the polo shirt is to be worn with black dress pants, black shoes, and black socks.

Bus Policies

- All normal school rules apply to the buses.
 - No belongings or trash are to be left on the buses upon return to MHS after an event.
 - When the bus arrives at a particular location, stay seated and wait for an adult to direct you where to go.
 - Cooperate with the chaperone(s) on your bus at all times.
 - If you are not returning on the bus the chaperone and Band Director must be informed prior to leaving the bus.
 - No friends or other family members are allowed to ride on the bus. The buses are only provided for band students and chaperones.
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Fundraising Opportunities

A number of fundraising opportunities are available for students each year. These fundraisers allow students to build up credit to be used towards the band trips that happen every two years. Information will be provided by the Bandaiders. To contact the Bandaiders email Jane Wiesen at melroseband@gmail.com.

Parent Expectations

- Participate in and support your child's music education
- Volunteer - contact the Bandaiders (melroseband@gmail.com)
- Come to performances

- Communicate with Band Director as needed
- Parents are expected to have FUN too!!

Confirmation Link

Families and students please fill out the form linked below confirming that you have read the band handbook by - **Friday September 4th.**

[Click here for confirmation form](#)