

# Melrose High School Band



Student Handbook  
2014 - 2015

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## Mission Statement

The mission of the Melrose Band program is to give students a life defining experience through music. To be part of a musical family, a team, something larger than themselves, that gives them a place to belong, contribute, grow, and thrive as they navigate their way from elementary school to college.

The Melrose Band program provides an exciting and challenging learning environment, promotes teamwork, creative 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 music through the study, preparation, and performance of music.
- To provide an environment that promotes and encourages life-long learning and personal growth.
- To create an environment that welcomes all students and provides them with a sense of community and belonging to an organization that is bigger than themselves.
- To provide an opportunity for students to develop habits of discipline, organization, cooperation, teamwork, leadership, and excellence.
- To allow students to express themselves in different and creative ways through music.
- To help students reach their full potential.
- To instill pride in each student.

*“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

## Citizenship through group endeavor

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

## Physical conditioning

- Develop strength, stamina, endurance, and coordination

## Cultural growth

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

## Music theory

- Know and utilize note values and rest
- Know and utilize keys, key signatures, and scales
- Know and utilize musical terms, signs, and symbols
- Recognize and tune intervals and harmony

## Proper instrumental technique

- Care of the instrument
- Correct posture and playing position
- Correct embouchure/stick grip/hand position
- Develop a beautiful tone on your instrument
- Develop proper breathing techniques
- 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 and Saturday afternoon 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## Communication

The band program encourages positive communication and Mr. Repucci is willing to discuss any aspect of a student's progress in band with his/her parents or guardians. To contact Mr. Repucci directly about a student related issue he can be reached at: 781-462-3240 or by email at: [mrepucci@melroseschools.com](mailto:mrepucci@melroseschools.com).

Information and forms can be found on the website: [www.melroseband.org](http://www.melroseband.org)

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](mailto:melroseband@gmail.com).

All high school students should be signed up for the "Remind" text message system by texting: @mhsb to 484-334-2965. 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.

- ALWAYS BE ON TIME. If you are not early, you are late!
- Students will follow the Band Director's and instructors' directions.
- Students will conduct themselves in an appropriate manner at all times.
- Students will contribute to rehearsals and performances by being prepared, attentive, enthusiastic, and willing 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 respect others' personal space and keep hands, feet, and other objects to themselves.
- 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).
- All rehearsals and classes are expected to be quiet so that time will be utilized wisely and as efficiently as possible.
- Students will respect the property of others and return their own equipment to its proper storage place when not in use. Students should keep their equipment in the designated storage closet spaces and keep said spaces clean and neat in appearance.

## Attendance

In order to build and maintain a high quality program attendance from all members is essential. All band members are required to be at every practice and performance, on time. All absences must have prior approval by Mr. Repucci.

There will be a Google Form set up that students must fill out for every event that the student will miss or be late to.

- Students are required to attend all rehearsals and performances for the ensembles they have chosen to take part in.
- Daily attendance is figured in to every student's grade.
- Being tardy counts against the attendance grade. It is important for the program's success that all students are on time.
- Students are responsible for notifying the Director if missing rehearsals or performances well before the event occurs.
- Excessive tardiness and/or absences will affect the student's eligibility and participation in the performing ensemble.
- Students will only be excused from performances/rehearsals after direct approval from the Director. Emailing/leaving a message that you cannot make it to a rehearsal or performance does not constitute an excused absence.

## Daily Supplies

The following list is what each student should plan to bring to the appropriate rehearsal and/or performance. Other items may be added at the discretion of the Director throughout the year.

- Folder with all necessary music
- 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)

*The following list for each instrument is comprised of recommended supplies and equipment. It should serve as a starting point/checklist for you.*

### **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

## At Home Supplies

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

## Instrument Care

1. Students must take proper care of all instruments and make sure they are in good playing condition.
2. Students are responsible for all accessories needed for their instrument. This includes: valve oil, reeds, neck straps, cork grease, etc.
3. Accessory items can be purchased at Music and Arts, most local music shops, or through Mr. Repucci (valve oil, cork grease, reeds).

## School Owned Instruments

Melrose Public Schools has a limited number of instruments for student use. These instruments are generally quite expensive for an individual student to buy (such as tenor saxophone, baritone saxophone, baritone, French horn, tuba, mallet instruments, and timpani to name a few). Because of their high expense 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

Band is a class which wears many hats. Students are responsible for learning rote academic skills such as reading music, learning vocabulary, and making progress on their individual instrument as well as playing in a group, giving performances, and providing service to the community through various performances which are in addition to the basic curriculum. In order to grade students based on the many skills involved in being successful in band the Band Director will base each student's grade on growth in each of these areas. As stated in the goals and objectives, a significant portion of being in band is based around attitude, work ethic, and behavior. Therefore this will comprise a significant portion of each student's grade. A student who comes to band on time, with a good attitude, works hard, helps others, and puts in a consistently solid effort will receive a grade of B without any further evaluation of their personal instrumental skills. To receive a grade of a B+, A-, or A, the student will play the specified test material for the Director which will be combined with general playing observations/evaluations from the semester.

### Grade breakdown

- 75% - Attitude, work ethic, behavior, participation in rehearsal etc. (as outlined above)
- 10% - Attendance and being on time
- 10% - Playing test
- 5% - Ensemble playing

## Practicing

Students are expected to practice on their own. Quite simply, practicing is “band homework”. Students should block off a total of 20 minutes in their day, 6 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 Director for a personalized practice routine.

## Concerts

The MHS band program consists of 5 major ensembles: Concert Band, Marching Band, Jazz Band, Middle School Band, and Youth Band. Fall performances are done by the Marching Band at football games, parades, and competitions. The December concert features the Middle School Band in the MVMMS auditorium. *Band Night* happens in March and features every ensemble except the Marching Band. The Jazz Band closes the show every April at *Celebrate the Arts*. In May the Concert Band and Jazz Band end the year at Memorial Hall for *Pops Night* which is always the Friday of Memorial Day weekend.

*\*Attendance at all performances is expected by all members of the band.*

## Concert Attire

### 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.

*\*Students that are not in the proper attire may be asked not to perform with the band. It is important that we have uniformity among our group.*

## Private Lessons

All students are strongly encouraged to take private lessons on their instrument. Private lessons will greatly enhance one's band experience. By working one on one with a specialist each week students get the kind of individualized attention that learning an instrument truly benefits from. 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.

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

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## 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.
- During all rehearsals, students will be silent when receiving instruction. Silent rehearsals maximize learning and performance.
- Standing is the only acceptable position on the marching field (unless directed otherwise).
- 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 evening practices wear bug repellent.
- Wear sturdy sneakers during all practices. NO flip flops or sandals!
- Wear sunscreen when in the sun for long stretches.
- Attend sectionals organized by your section leader.
- Wear sunglasses 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.
- 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

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.

## Rehearsal/Performance Rules and Conduct

- The band program will follow all school policies with regard to behavior and conduct.
- Always be prepared. Students must have all materials needed for a successful rehearsal. Always have your music, instrument, pencil, and necessary accessories.
- Students must show respect for all band members, directors, and parents.
- Students must show respect for all property. Every area the band inhabits should be left in better condition than it was before we entered it. This includes buses, fields, bleachers, and school buildings.
- The uniform must be worn correctly at all performances.
- Students will have music prepared for each rehearsal.

- No food or drinks (except water) are allowed during rehearsal or a performance.
- Proper language is to be used at all times.
- Band members will consider themselves role models in the community and conduct themselves accordingly.
- Band is meant to be fun! The more effort you put into your preparation, rehearsals, and activities, the more fun and worthwhile your experience will become.

## Band Room Policies

- The band room and uniform/supply closets should be kept neat and orderly at all times. They should reflect the pride we have for our organization. Students should clean up around his/her own area, and generally keep the room looking good even if it is not your mess.
- Hats will be removed when entering the band room.

## 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.

## Parent Expectations

- Participate in your child's music education
- Support your child's music education
- Volunteer
- Come to all performances
- Support the Band Director and communicate if there are issues
- Parents are expected to have FUN too!!

## Confirmation Link

Please fill out the form linked below confirming that you have read the band handbook by - **August 28th, 2014.**

**[Click here for confirmation form](#)**