

MARVIN RIDGE BANDS



2009-2010 MIDDLE SCHOOL HANDBOOK

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Introduction

Welcome to the Marvin Ridge Band Program! Our goal at Marvin Ridge is to create strong, independent, well-disciplined band members in an environment that is both enjoyable and educationally sound. This handbook reviews the policies of our program and our expectations of the students. Participants in the band program are expected to know and abide by the material in this handbook. Therefore, it is important that both students and parents or guardians read the handbook in its entirety. Once this is done, both parents and students are asked to sign a “statement of responsibility” acknowledging that they have read, and are familiar with, the policies and the expectations of the program. Please refer back to this handbook during the school year if you have questions or forget any of the procedures.

Philosophy

The students, directors, parents and administration of the Marvin Ridge Band Program believe the study of instrumental music to be a vital part of our curriculum. It is a necessary part of daily life we must offer our students if they are to receive a well-balanced education. Our program is designed to help students gain a feeling of accomplishment and satisfaction through personal effort, experience a spirit of cooperation through group participation, and provide an outlet for emotional release and an opportunity for creative expression.



Class Materials

Sixth Grade

Ed Sueta Band Method Book 1
1” BLACK three-ring binder
Plastic Sheet Protectors/Notebook Paper
Pencil in class EVERY DAY

Seventh Grade

Essential Elements 2000 Book 2
1” BLACK three-ring binder
Plastic Sheet Protectors/Notebook Paper
Pencil in class EVERY DAY

Eighth Grade

Foundations for Superior Performance
1” BLACK three-ring binder
Plastic sheet protectors/Notebook Paper
Pencil in class EVERY DAY

Jazz Band

*Standard of Excellence-
Jazz Ensemble Method*

Although not required, we strongly recommend the purchase of a metronome and tuner to aid in your students practice and musical development.

At various times during the school year, sheet music will be issued to each student. If a student is absent, he or she is responsible for obtaining a copy of the music from Mrs. Isenhour or the band librarian before the next rehearsal. Sheet music should be placed in the plastic sheet protector before being placed into the student’s binder. A fee of twenty-five cents will be assessed for any music that must be replaced.

Music materials and supplies may be purchased at the following stores:

Music & Arts Center (at the Arboretum)
704.341.0000

Howren Music Company (On Hwy 51)
704.541.1798

Private Lessons

As one might expect, private lessons on a musical instrument are the best way to improve performance skills. The one-on-one approach allows the student to benefit from the individual attention as opposed to a teacher monitoring a class of over 60 students. *A recent survey of one All-State Band revealed that 80% of those students in the band studied privately.* Simply put, private lessons work! At Marvin Ridge, we encourage parents to consider private lessons for their child. A list of suggested instructors is posted on our website or may be obtained from the band room. Please contact Mrs. Isenhour to add other instructors to the list.

Rules and Regulations

As in all groups, the Marvin Ridge Middle School Band must operate under a certain number of rules and regulations in order to ensure the successful completion of its goals. Even though some of these may vary from activity to activity, it is important that each rule and regulation be understood and followed by all band members.

- Be quiet in your chair with your materials and your instrument in the ready position when the director steps on the podium.

- No gum, candy, food or drinks are allowed in the rehearsal room, during rehearsal or during performances.
- Do not play your instrument unless you are under direction.
- Stay off any and all equipment that is not assigned to you.
- Raise your hand to speak or to ask to leave your seat.
- Students are to use the restroom either before or after class.
- Neither the band director, the school, nor the booster club are responsible for the safekeeping of any instrument left overnight in the band room. Instruments are to be taken home at the conclusion of the school day.

Consequences for Inappropriate Behavior

1. Verbal warning from teacher.
2. Asked to pack up, complete alternate assignment
4. Lunch Detention/Parent Contact
5. Office Referral
6. Removal from Band Program

Special Supplies

Brass students are expected to have valve oil and slide grease in their case at all times. Reed players should have a reed guard with at least three good reeds. Clarinets must use either Mitchell Lurie or Vandoren reeds. Saxes must use either Hemke or Vandoren reeds. All

players are expected to have proper equipment to clean their instrument. Supplies can be purchased through the band boosters before the school day begins or at any local music store. Equipment will be checked periodically as part of the classroom grade.

Instrument Storage

Each instrument should be taken home from school each day. Students may neatly put their instrument in to instrument storage area in the band room immediately before school begins each day. All cases must be clearly labeled with the band student's name, address, and phone number on the outside. **Non-labeled instruments are not allowed in the storage room at any time! This is for your own protection!**

Rehearsals and Concerts Outside of School Time

Rehearsals before and/or afterschool are essential in preparing for a concert. These rehearsals will be limited to very few, and due to this each student's presence is vital. A student's grade, in part, is determined by attendance at concerts and rehearsals. **The following policy is non-negotiable, so please note very carefully:** Should a **serious** rehearsal conflict arise, written notice must be submitted by the parent at least 48 hours **in advance of the rehearsal**. In the event of an emergency written notice should be given 24 hours later or when the student returns to school. **For band performances**, an excused absence will only be granted in **emergency situations**. Failure to arrange transportation, or athletic practices, tryouts or events **will not** be excuse. When a serious conflict is

absolutely unavoidable, notify Mrs. Isenhour immediately.

Excused absences, which are granted at the discretion of the director, will not affect the students grade or standing in the ensemble. Excused absences are:

- Sickness
- Death in the family
- Doctor's appointment (excused only with a doctor's note)
- On occasion, conflicts with other school activities, (based on proper notification and attempts to resolve the conflict).

Concert Attire

Each student will dress in concert attire for each performance. **Students not in full concert attire will not be allowed to perform.**

6th Grade:

- MRMS Band Tee
- School code khaki pants/shorts

7th Grade:

- MRMS Band Tee
- Khaki pants or skirt. **NO SHORTS.**
- Dress shoes or sandals. **NO SNEAKERS!**

8th Grade:

- Marvin Ridge Bands Polo Shirt
- Black pants or skirt (must be knee-length or longer)
- Black dress shoes and socks/hosiery

NO DENIM, T-SHIRTS OR SNEAKERS ARE ALLOWED FOR 8th GRADE CONCERT DRESS!

Grading System

Each 6 weeks grade will be determined by the student's performance in three different areas.

Classroom Grade 20%

Grading in this area will be based upon the day to day preparation and adherence to the class rules by each student. Violations of classroom rules results in a deduction from the classroom grade (examples include: gum, candy food, lack of supplies, forgetting an instrument or folder, disrespect for equipment, excessive talking, intentional improper playing, not following directions, etc.).

Tests and Performances 50%

- *Playing Tests*- Playing test will be held during class at the rate of about one per three week period and will be graded on a point system. Any student who wishes to improve a grade on a playing test may do so only if the student arranges a time with the director outside of class to retake the test.
- *Written Tests* – Written tests will be given periodically and will concentrate mainly on the theory, history and concepts of music.
- *Performances* – The band is a performing ensemble to which every student must contribute. Each student is expected to attend all performances of the band (minimum 2 per year). The dates of these events will be given far in advance to each student to allow for schedule planning. Please see the section on Rehearsals and Concerts for more information.

Practice Records 30%

Each student is to turn in a signed practice record on the first school day of each week accounting for the minutes practiced in the week prior. A point is given for each minute practiced during the week. **Instruments are to be practiced at home a minimum of 100 minutes per week.** Missed practice records cannot be made up without making special arrangements with the director. Late practice records are accepted at reduced credit (10 points per day late).

Event Descriptions

Middle School Night: October 16th

The 8th Grade Band will perform pep music in the stands with the MRHS Marching Band at the last home high school football game of the season.

MR Bands End of Year Celebration is an end-of-year social event for the MRMS Bands at which a fun concert, refreshments and award ceremony will take place.

All-County Band: Students from each UCPS Middle School can audition. Selected students participate in a clinic on Friday and concert on Saturday.

All-District Band: Students from South Central NC audition for this prestigious Honor Band. Students participate in a Friday clinic and concert on Saturday.

All-State Band: The top students from each District Band audition for the NC All-State Band. This is the highest individual honor available to a band student in North Carolina.

Concert Band MPA (Music Performance Adjudication) : This event is the culmination of our year's preparation. It is an adjudicated contest to evaluate our performance as a musical ensemble, and is normally held in March.

Solo and Ensemble: This event is a performance opportunity for individuals and small groups, usually held in May.

Turning in Money

All money paid must be in a sealed envelope, and all checks should be made payable to "**Marvin Ridge Band Boosters.**" The student should put his or her name on the envelope, in ink, along with the amount enclosed and what the payment is for, (i.e. fundraiser, all-state, lost music, band fees, etc.) There is a locked payment box located in the band room where students can place all payments.

** Please specifically identify your student and your reason for payment on the memo line of your check.*

** Please make all checks payable to "Marvin Ridge Band Boosters" unless otherwise directed.*

Fundraising

Fundraising is an essential part of running an effective band program, with the following goals:

- To raise money for the band so that we may continue to provide the program with the equipment and instruments that are needed for full instrumentation.

- To provide students with more individualized instruction by having instrument specific teachers conduct sectionals.
- To allow students enriching performance opportunities and experiences above and beyond the school concerts.

Fundraising participation by all band families is critical to the mission of the band program. Fundraisers will be limited one in the fall and one in the spring semester.

Marvin Ridge Band Boosters

The Marvin Ridge Band Boosters is an organization of parents and friends of the Marvin Ridge Band who are dedicated to the success and growth of the Marvin Ridge Band Program and its students. The purpose of the Band Boosters is to provide financial and physical support to the Marvin Ridge Band, its students, and the directors.

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