

Marine Creek Middle School



Band Handbook 2019-2020

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Table of Contents

Welcome	2
Mission Statement	2
Communication	2
Commitment	3
Calendar	4
Goals/Objectives	4
Ensembles	5
Student Leadership	6
Expectations	7
Policies	7
Facilities	8
Performance Locations	9
Finances	9
Private Lessons	10
Music Stores/Repair	11
How Can Parents Help?	12
Conclusion	12

Welcome

We are so excited to have you as a family member of the Ranger Regiment and Marine Creek band. Each year, together, we will work to achieve higher and higher levels of musicianship while maintaining a constant appreciation of ourselves, our peers, our community, and our art form.

It is our hope as directors to build, maintain, and encourage a safe, consistent, and challenging learning environment. Our hope is that each and every student who enter our doors will leave with much more than a first class music education. It is just as important to us to educate the student as a whole and influence their capacity to affect the world after leaving us. Every student will learn how to fulfill their responsibilities individually in order to contribute to the larger group.

At Marine Creek, we want our students to find their place to shine, to inspire, and to be inspired. We are thrilled that they are exploring our band program and can't wait to start creating music.

This handbook is meant to serve as a guideline and resource for all involved including students, parents and guardians, and directors alike, as we move through the year. Upon completely reading this book, we ask both students and parents sign and return the contract that is passed out in class or printed from the back of this handbook.

Mission Statement

The Marine Creek Middle School band program will focus our efforts around the following statements:

Creating music that inspires; together.

Be remarkable.

Communication

Our goal as directors here at Marine Creek is to consistently and effectively communicate with ALL parties involved. We ask that parents and students do the same. When you have a question, please direct those questions to the appropriate director noted below:

- Mrs. Stephens – Overall program planning and organization, 7th Grade Band, Beginning Clarinet, Beginning Clarinet, Beginning French Horn, Beginning Trombone/Euphonium, Parent Volunteers
- Mrs. Clark – 8th Grade Band, Beginning Flute, Beginning Oboe/Bassoon, Beginning Trumpet, Beginning Tuba, Private Lessons
- Percussion Director – Beginning Percussion and 7th/8th Grade Percussion

To contact a director, please note that email is the best way to reach out. We are consistently out in the band hall with students before school, after school, and during classes, and frequently miss phone calls.

Emails should be sent with questions regarding logistics, instruments, etc. If you have a concern, please send an email to request a parent conference. We ask that you schedule these as soon as you feel the concern and don't wait until it becomes an issue. We ask that you don't discuss the concern via email, as text doesn't

always convey accurate emotion. We would much rather discuss the issue over the phone or in person. Our email addresses can be found on the front of this handbook. Directors will check their email before school and after school and will do their best to respond to all contact within 24 hours.

It is also our expectation that students bring concerns to us individually outside of class time before they become issues. We want every student to feel safe and cared for, and we can help do this if information is shared in a timely manner.

Throughout the year, we will use various platforms to communicate with students and parents. Each platform will be used for the following information:

- Cut Time – Events, Itineraries, Fundraising Information, Schedules, Rehearsals
- Remind 101 – Daily reminders, rehearsal reminders, student volunteer opportunities, instrument specific and/or individual messages
 - 7th Grade - @mcms7bnd
 - 8th Grade - @mcms8bnd
- District Email – Grades, Conference Requests

We will also utilize several social media platforms to celebrate student success. Please follow our pages and keep up with the fabulous achievements of the program.

Twitter – (Coming Soon)

Instagram – (Coming Soon)

Never hesitate to reach out. We are always here to help!

Commitment

When you joined our band family here at Marine Creek, you also joined the bigger Ranger Regiment family in our cluster. Here at Marine Creek, we are building a community that spans from 6th grade through 12th grade. We will consistently focus on the SEVEN year opportunity for students. A seven year journey in this program will give students the opportunity to realize the full development of the following characteristics:

- Determination
- Work Ethic
- Long-term Goal Setting
- Accountability
- Critical Thinking
- Socialization
- Teamwork

Being involved with something such as band during the important middle school and high school years, gives students a place to belong. Our hope is to provide a safe, challenging, and rewarding environment for as many students as possible. Although we understand that band may not be the place that every student in the

program today, decides to finish their high school career, we want everyone to know that we are investing in students for the long run. We hope that students will in turn invest in us and this program also.

Calendar

All dates concerning sectionals, rehearsals, and performances outside the school day will be posted on the district calendar posted on the district website, as well as our Charms/Cut Time calendar. Please make sure you check this calendar OFTEN and subscribe or copy ALL dates onto your phones/family calendars. Any changes or additions made after school starts will be emailed and communicated in advance.

Goals and Objectives

During your time in the Marine Creek band program, our goal is for each student to develop the following skills:

- Determination
- Problem-Solving Skills
- Professionalism
- Goal-Setting Skills
- Pacing
- Independent Learning Skills
- Teamwork
- Self-Expression
- Time Management
- Discipline
- Cultural Acceptance
- Accountability
- Desire to Achieve More than the Minimum

In order to achieve those goals, we will work through the following objectives:

- Music Theory
- Proper Instrument Technique
- Music Literacy
- Music Appreciation
- Fine Art Appreciation
- Performance Skills
- Aural Skills

Our first goal will always be to care for your child. If they develop into a fabulous musician in the process, that's an added bonus. 😊

Ensembles

Beginning Band

Beginning band student will meet in instrument like classes divided as such:

- Flute
- Clarinet
- Saxophones
- Double Reeds
- Trumpet
- French Horn
- Trombone/Baritone
- Tuba
- Percussion

In homogenous instrument classes, students will receive individualized instruction on the fundamentals of their instrument. Students in the beginning band classes will participate in the following performances.

- MCMS Beginner Showcase Concert and MCMS Spring Concert
- EMS-ISD Solo and Ensemble Contest
- Spring Band Festival
- Various other performances if they arise

7th Graded Band

The MCMS 7th Grade Band will be made up of the 7th grade students signed up for band. Students in the seventh grade band will rehearse as a full band each day and concentrate on working together to achieve success. Students in the seventh grade band will participate in the following:

- Pep Rallies
- MCMS Winter and Spring Concerts
- UIL Concert and Sight-reading Contest
- Spring Band Festival
- Various other performances if they arise

Students in the symphonic band will be encouraged to participate in the following:

- EMS-ISD All City Auditions
- TMEA Region Band Auditions
- Chamber Festival Competition

8th Grade Band

The MCMS 8th Grade Band will be made up of 8th grade students signed up for band. Students in the eighth grade band will rehearse as a full band each day and concentrate on working together to achieve success. Students in the eighth grade band will participate in the following:

- Pep Rallies
- MCMS Winter and Spring Concerts
- UIL Concert and Sight-reading Contest
- Spring Band Festival

- Elementary Tours as needed
- Various other performances if they arise

Student in the wind ensemble will be expected to also participate in the following:

- EMS-ISD All City Auditions
- TMEA Region Band Auditions
- Chamber Festival Competition

Student Leadership

Our goal in the MCMS band program is that EVERY student will feel a responsibility to lead by example every single day. However, for students looking to take a step further several positions exist that contain larger responsibility and time commitment.

Student leadership positions include but are not limited to:

Band Council – Elected representatives to fill the positions of Band President, Vice President, Secretary, and Historian. This council will meet regularly to plan full band socials, discuss progress and goals, and plan/organize the end of the year band banquet.

Section Leaders – Students who monitor other students and their musical improvement within their like instrument group. A section leader is encouraged to lead extra sectionals, offer one on one help to other section members, organize and plan section socials, and develop overall section pride and identity.

Librarians – Students who help maintain organization and accountability within our music library. A librarian is encouraged to design/maintain a system for replacing lost music, incorporating new pieces of music into the filing system, and consistently monitoring the cleanliness/filing organization of the music library space.

Quarter Masters – Students who help maintain clean and working facilities and equipment. Quarter Masters are encouraged to develop/maintain a system for storing all equipment, and making plans to set up and tear down all needed equipment for rehearsals and performances regularly.

Through election and selection students will have various opportunities to serve THEIR band program and peers. In these positions, student leaders will have the opportunity to discuss, create, organize, and plan to continuously improve the MCMS band program.

Audition material will be selected and determined by the directors and communicated in advance to students. Directors will evaluate FULL year performance and attitude when choosing student leaders.

Expectations

Members of the Marine Creek band are expected to follow all rules and expectations set out by Marine Creek Middle School and Eagle Mountain Saginaw ISD.

Fine Arts students are also expected to be LEADERS on our campus. Whether inside or outside of the band hall, each member is a representation of our family. Band students should be easily recognizable by exuding the following traits:

- Determined Work Ethic

- Consistent and Prompt Attendance
- Proper preparation and Readiness
- Team Player without exception
- Willingness to Help
- Responsibility for individual actions
- Acceptance of Consequences
- Willingness to Ask for Help
- Creative Problem Solver
- MATURITY

People, adults and children alike, make mistakes. Our expectation is for every child within the band program to learn from their mistakes and WORK toward being a model of the above mentioned characteristics, daily. In their effort to do this they will set the example for their peers in the halls of Marine Creek Middle School.

Policies

There are two overall policies that help the program as a whole moving forward. Both of these policies must be taken seriously and understood thoroughly.

1. Band is a FULL YEAR commitment. This stands true from the 6th grade to the 12th grade. While here at MCMS, we will consistently talk about the seven year band journey, it is only realistic to note that some students will decide to shine in other activities besides band. However, we ask that you understand and respect that those decisions must be made before and after a full school year is complete. Planning and programming are decided each year based off numbers within each instrument of the band. Losing even one individual unexpectedly in any section, and in any ensemble, affects the larger group.
2. In order to create together, every person has to be PRESENT. Consistent attendance is CRUCIAL to the success of all of our groups and learning how to work as a team. In our art of instrumental music, set up time is a necessity. Students need time to get their equipment assembled, ensure they have all supplies, and prepare their minds to learn. Please take note of the following attendance procedures:
 - a. Students should arrive at least 10 minutes early to all before/after school rehearsals.
 - b. Student leaders should arrive at least 15 or 20 minutes early to all events.
 - c. Consistent attendance problems could result in a change of band placement or removal of leadership responsibilities.
 - d. If a student is well enough to attend the school day, they are expected to attend any before/after school rehearsals as well.
 - e. If a student is going to be absent for a rehearsal, please send their director an email at least 24 hours in advance, or as soon as possible.

We want the opportunity to truly get to know your child and help them find their place to shine. Commitment and presence will help us do that.

Facilities

We are so lucky to have brand new facilities here at Marine Creek. We are blessed to be surrounded by state of the art equipment and rehearsal spaces. We want to make sure that the quality of this environment remain this way for generations and generations of students to come. To help us achieve this, these basic guidelines apply at all times:

- No food or drinks (except water in a container with a lid) in the Fine Arts area, unless properly stored, i.e. lunch boxes, etc.
- No gum
- Walking Only
- No throwing items OF any kind AT any time
- Only handle and play your assigned or personal instrument
- If it's not yours, leave it be, or turn it in to a director.
- Keep your locker clean, take everything home every weekend
- Only store your belongings in their designated areas

Practice rooms are a very important part of our facilities. These rooms are for exactly what they say; to practice.

Band Hall Hours

The MCMS band hall will be open to students unless otherwise indicated daily from the following hours:

- Monday through Friday with sectionals – 7:45a.m. to 4:45p.m.
- Monday through Friday without sectionals – 7:45a.m. to 4:15p.m.

Students are welcome to come in and practice during those hours outside of the school day. Parents please note, directors may be in other rooms teaching sectionals, etc. so if you bring your student, they may not be individually monitored during this time.

Performance Locations

We are very fortunate to have several venues as options to perform in. Our concert locations could include any of the following:

- MCMS Stage – Located in the Cafeteria
- MCMS Gymnasium
- Chisholm Trail High School Performing Arts Center – Located on the East side of the High School at 3100 NW College Dr.

Availability of venues and size of ensembles will determine performance locations each year. Communication will be sent home indicating where each performance will be held ahead of time.

Finances

Activity Fees

First, the MCMS band family will never deny a student the opportunity to be involved in our program due to financial hardship.

Band fees help us to provide only the best materials and instruction to students. Due to limited funds provided by the district, we must supplement in order to provide the resources to be successful. Throughout the year, each student will receive:

- A customized 1 inch MCMS Band Binder
- Dividers to strategically organize their materials
- 2 MCMS Band Pencils
- Standard MCMS Band T-Shirt
- Yearly MCMS Band T-Shirt
- Frequent clinician/masterclass instruction

The flat fee for the above mentioned items, due from every student in the program, each year, is \$50. All band members will pay this fee ONE time per year.

School Owned Instrument -\$100 - Students who play Oboe, Bassoon, Bass Clarinet, Tenor or Bari Saxophone, French Horn, Baritone, Tuba, or Percussion will be issued a school owned instrument to play. In order to provide any routine maintenance, or cleaning, this yearly fee is charged to “rent” these instruments. This is also a once per student, once per year fee. Any damage done to the instrument outside of normal wear and tear is the responsibility of the student and parent to get fixed throughout the year.

Payment plans can be arranged for band and instrument fees. Please reach out and let us know if this would help.

All students must supply several supplies daily in order to keep their instrument in good playing condition and be properly prepared for class. Students will receive a grade each six weeks for having all the proper supplies. Please look over the “supplies objective sheet” for details at the end of this handbook. Supplies can be purchased and replaced at any of the music stores or online through their websites mentioned in the Music Store/Repair section of this handbook.

Donations toward the band program are always appreciated and welcome. We only want the best for all students!

Mustang Music Enrichment Program (MMEP)

The Mustang Music Enrichment Program enables students to work one on one with a master teacher of their specific instrument. Also called private lessons, these sessions are not only for the students who need extra support, but they definitely offer that. Lessons can be for students who want to learn faster and be more challenged. Lessons are for everyone. They are the chance for everyone to learn at their own pace and be successful.

We are honored to offer only the BEST teachers as members of our MMEP staff for your students.

- Natasha Costello, Flute
ncostello1994@gmail.com
- Jacob Wright, Flute
jacobwrightflutist@gmail.com
- Melissa Bosma, Oboe
melissabosmaoboe@gmail.com
- Nicole Lara, Bassoon
anicolelara@yahoo.com
- Luke Folse, Clarinet
luke.folse@gmail.com
- Isaac Swanson, Trumpet/Tuba
isaac@isaacswanson.com
- Jean Bryant, French Horn
jbryant09@me.com
- Austin Richardson, Trombone/Baritone
richardsonaustin93@gmail.com

Private lessons are \$19 per half hour and are scheduled weekly. Teachers come here to Marine Creek and will offer lesson times before school, during class, and after school. Please note the following private lesson policies:

- Payment for lessons goes directly to the instructor via students during lesson time.
- If students need to miss a lesson, communication must be given 24 hours in advance to the private lesson teacher.
- Missed lessons without notice will still be charged the regular lesson fee.
- Private lessons are not extra practice time. Come prepared and ready to learn each week.

Music Stores and Repair

Throughout the year, accessories and supplies will be needed to support your child's music education, including the possible purchase of an actual instrument. You can find a list of minimum supplies students need at the end of this handbook on the supplies objective sheet, as well as a list of recommended beginner and step up instruments for your student. The below mentioned stores supply everything we desire your student to have, in stores and online.

The stores below are all also reliable locations to have an instrument repaired or serviced. Just like a car, you know there are good and bad mechanics. The music world is no different. Any of these places are a safe place to take your musical investment.

If you find an instrument or supplies elsewhere or wish to take your instrument somewhere different for repair, please contact a band director before proceeding. We want to make sure you are paying for quality and lasting excellence.

If you decide to purchase an instrument for your child at any time, consider adding it to your homeowner's or rental insurance. Unfortunately, instruments are highly sought after items for thieves to pawn, and having insurance can help in these scenarios.

Bell's Music Shop
536 Keller Pkwy
Keller, TX 76248

<http://bellsmusicshop.com>

Music and Arts
1428 West Pipeline Road
Hurst, TX 76053

<https://www.musicarts.com>

NTune Music and Sound
10450 E Bankhead Hwy
Aledo, TX 76008

<https://ntunemusic.com>

How Can Parents Help?

You may be asking how you, as a parent, can help your child to be musically successful while he or she is participating in the MCMS band program, or how you can assist with the needs of the program yourself. Below are a few suggestions:

- Show an interest in the musical study of your child.
- Help your child arrange a regular time to practice.
- Find a quiet place where he or she can practice without interruption.
- Listen to performances of practice material when asked to do so.
- Help your child keep a daily record of practicing.
- Come up with some kind of reward system for daily practicing that fits your family.
- Keep the instrument in good repair, and keep all needed supplies in stock and in working condition.
- Encourage your child to be extra careful with school-owned instruments; repair costs can be very high!
- Teach your child to be prepared and on time to each rehearsal or lesson.
- Provide private instruction!
- Emphasize the importance of faithful attendance at all band activities to your child.
- Buy your child a personal planner for marking important dates, or teach them how to do this with their smartphone, if they have one.
- Keep this handbook in a safe place and refer to it often.
- Notify the appropriate teacher if your child is to be absent for rehearsal or lessons.
- Visit rehearsals occasionally!
- Attend parent meetings, concerts, and contests.
- Make payments of band fees on time.
- **ENCOURAGE COMMITMENT AND HARD WORK.**

Conclusion

The Marine Creek Mustang band family is absolutely thrilled to have every student and family joining us this year. We can't wait to see what great things we will accomplish. Reach out if you need anything. We can't wait to create music together.