

2007-2008
Official Handbook
of the

Mesquite High School

M M B

Mighty Maroon Band

“Watch Out For That TREE!”

Mighty Maroon Band Handbook

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Mesquite High School
Mighty Maroon Band

**Policies and Procedures
2007-2008 School Year**

The following policies were drawn up not to punish anyone or restrict your personal freedoms, but to allow us to be aware of the rules necessary to keep the MMB functioning in a smooth, positive manner.

I. Excused Absences

The following situations constitute an excused absence.

- 1.) Illness – Requires a note from parent.
- 2.) Death in the family – Requires a note from parent.
- 3.) Extreme family emergency – Requires a note or phone call from parent.
- 4.) Doctor appointment (emergency) – Requires a note or phone call from parent. Please schedule all doctors' appointments around rehearsals and concerts.
- 5.) All other circumstances considered to be extenuating according to the Mesquite I.S.D. attendance policy.

****** All absences require a note ******

II. Unexcused Absences

Most other absences are unexcused at the discretion of the director. The following actions will be taken for unexcused absences.

- 1.) In marching season, content and valuable instruction time will be lost and cannot be recovered. As a result, a substantial number of points will be deducted from the academic grade. Continued unexcused absences could result in removal from the marching formation.
- 2.) In concert season, the same policies will apply as mentioned above. Repeated absences could result in being moved to last chair, and/or being moved down a band.
- 3.) Repeated unexcused absences in either marching or concert season will result in a parent conference.

4.) Repeated unexcused absences could result in removal from band.

****All rehearsals will start and end on time. We are limited to eight hours a week outside the school day. We respect your time, respect ours.****

III. Tardies

Members should arrive no later than ten (10) minutes prior to the designated time for before and after school rehearsals. Get there in time to get your instrument and all materials and get to your seat, ready to play at the appointed time. Keep the following items in mind concerning tardies:

- 1.) Anyone who arrives later than the scheduled time and is not in their assigned place is tardy.
- 2.) Anyone arriving more than fifteen (15) late results in loss of valuable instruction time and the academic grade will be affected accordingly. In addition, arriving late creates a class disruption and could result in the lowering of the citizenship grade.

IV. Extra rehearsals and Sectionals

In addition to regular rehearsals during school time, each member is required to attend additional rehearsals each week. These are required rehearsals and the same absentee rules apply to them as apply to our regular rehearsals. The day and time of sectionals are varied according to which section the student is in.

V. Performances

All band members are required to participate in **ALL** performances. Please keep track of the performance calendar that is passed out at the beginning of summer band for all football games, marching competitions, concerts and festivals. This does include the **Rodeo Parade** and **Graduation**. Missing a performance could result in a failing grade for the six weeks and may possibly jeopardize the member's chance for going to contests and trips with the band. Again, this does apply to the Rodeo Parade and Graduation.

VI. Grades

Mesquite I.S.D. grading policies will be followed. For Wind Symphony, Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band, this will be a performance/participation grade based on rehearsal attendance, class participation, performance attendance and playing tests. The following items **subtract** from your grade:

- 1.) Missing rehearsals. Unexcused loss of instruction – 10 point deduction for six weeks.
- 2.) Missing performances. Unexcused loss of valuable performance time. Comparable to missing a major test – 30 point deduction for the six weeks.
- 3.) Forgetting/ Not having instrument or equipment. Loss of instruction – 5 point deduction for six weeks.
- 4.) Not having instrument/equipment in working order. Same as not having it. Loss of instruction – 5 point deduction from six weeks.

The following items add points to grades:

- 1.) Extra help that facilitates instruction.
- 2.) Trying out for the All- Region Band.
- 3.) Being selected to the All Region Band, Area Band or All State Band.
- 4.) Performing at Solo/Ensemble Contest. (Required for Wind Symphony Members.)
- 5.) Any additional work, practice, etc. that would enhance individual performance.

VII. Band Placement

Every student who is signed up for band must audition to be placed in a band class. These auditions will be held twice a year, once in December and again in May for the following year. Placement in the Wind Symphony, Wind Ensemble, or Symphonic Band will be determined by a number of criteria. Some of these are: Playing audition, sight-reading, participation in non required band events (All Region, etc.), conduct, attitude, dependability, eligibility, attendance for rehearsals and performances and the students' demonstrated ability to perform the level of the music for the band in which they are placed.

VIII. Concurrent Enrollment

As per M.I.S.D. policy, enrollment in both Band (A-Day) and Instrumental Ensemble (B-Day) classes is mandatory for all band students. Exemptions will be done on a case by case basis for true conflicts in the master schedule that can be solved in no other way and for seniors that need another course to graduate that

cannot fit into their class schedule. Conflicts that can be resolved by moving a class to a later year will be taken care of in that fashion.

IX. Assignment of Alternates

Although it would be desirable for all students to hold a marching position in the UIL Contest Show, unfortunately some students will become academically ineligible, move, suffer injuries or in extreme cases get suspended or expelled from band performances. Therefore it is necessary to have a reserve of alternates ready to step in when the need arises. The directors will choose alternates based on the following criteria:

- 1.) Marching and playing abilities
- 2.) Attendance at summer band and past band functions
- 3.) Past eligibility status
- 4.) Instrumentation needs
- 5.) Overall attitude towards band

All eligible students will fully participate in football game halftime shows.

X. Conduct

The conduct of each band member should be above reproach. By the time a student is in high school, he/she should know how to show appropriate behavior. The high standards set by the MMB will be strictly enforced. Poor behavior is a sign of lack of pride and lack of concern for the band. If a student's conduct grade falls below a "C" in band or any other class, he/she could be removed from their current band assignment. During marching season, the student could be removed from the band formation. Members who continually display inappropriate conduct or violate the policies of the school could be removed from the band program.

XI. Eligibility

According to the Texas Education Agency/ University Interscholastic League Side by Side Rules, it is stated that a student in an extracurricular activity who fails any class for a six weeks grading period will be ineligible to compete or perform with that group for the next three weeks. At the end of the three week period, a student may become eligible again if he/she is passing all classes at that time. Because of this law, any student showing an inability to consistently be eligible could be removed and placed in a lower band, or be removed from the band program.

XII. Student Leaders

At the conclusion of every school year the MMB has auditions for the selection of drum majors and section leaders. The job that is done by these students is very important to the success of the band. It is not possible to select all who wish to serve, therefore, auditions will be based on the following factors.

Drum Majors

It is the director's prerogative to choose drum majors for the band as a coach would choose a quarterback. Tryouts are held as a courtesy to the students.

A. Requirements:

You must meet the following requirements to audition for Drum Major:

- i. You must have at least two years of experience in the MMB.
- ii. You must be able to attend Drum Major Camp
- iii. You must be able to attend MMB Leadership Team Camp.
- iv. If you are ineligible for the six weeks of UIL Region Marching Contest or UIL Concert/Sightreading Contest you **are not** eligible to audition for a leadership position.
- v. If you receive a Class II disciplinary offense or higher, as per the Student Code of Conduct, you **are not** eligible to audition for a leadership position.
- vi. You must have a history of dependability, responsibility, eligibility and shown leadership skills in the MMB.

B. Audition:

- i. Everyone must submit 3 letters of recommendation from past or current teachers explaining why he or she thinks you would make a good drum major.
- ii. You must complete the Drum Major Application
- iii. You must attend the clinic to learn the basics of conducting and vocal commands.
- iv. Your audition will be judged on the following:
 - v. Position of attention and other marching basics
 - vi. Basic conducting patterns (4/4, 3/4, 2/4)
 - vii. Giving cues in each pattern
 - viii. Basic cut offs
 - ix. Vocal Commands (To be given to the group):
 1. Attention
 2. Horns Up, Front, Down
 3. Forward march
 4. Halt
 5. Backwards march

- 6. Halt
 - 7. Posture Check
 - x. An original salute
- C. Interview:**
- i. Everyone will go through a very detailed interview. Be prepared to answer openly and honestly.

Section Leaders

It is the director's prerogative to choose section leaders for the band as a coach would choose running backs, receivers, etc. Tryouts are held as a courtesy to the students.

A. Requirements:

You must meet the following requirements to audition for Section Leader:

- i. You must have at least one year of experience in the MMB.
- ii. You must be able to attend MMB Leadership Team Camp.
- iii. If you are ineligible for the six weeks of UIL Region Marching Contest or UIL Concert/Sightreading Contest you **are not** eligible to audition for a leadership position.
- iv. If you receive a Class II or higher disciplinary offense, as per the Code of Conduct, you **are not** eligible to audition for a leadership position.
- v. You must have a history of dependability, responsibility, eligibility and shown leadership skills in the MMB.

B. Audition:

- i. Everyone must submit 3 letters of recommendation from past or current teachers explaining why he or she thinks you would make a good section leader.
- ii. You must complete the Section Leader Application
- iii. You must organize a group of four(4) people who have no marching experience in any band. Colorguard members cannot be used.
- iv. You must teach your group the following:
 - 1. Position of Attention
 - 2. Command to come to attention
 - 3. Instrument Positions (Trail, Front, Play)
 - 4. Commands for Instrument Positions
 - 5. Forward March 8 to 5
 - 6. Reverse March 8 to 5
 - 7. Posture Check
- v. At the audition you will take your group through the listed exercises.
- vi. Your audition is judged on how well your group performs as well as on how you command them. You must be very

- confident and give good, clear commands. Both you and your group need to show a lot of enthusiasm.
- vii. You will be given an exercise to teach your group in front of judges. You will be evaluated on how you teach them and they will be judged on their performance.

****New drum majors and section leaders will be announced at the band banquet.****

XIII. Uniforms

All students are responsible for knowing the proper procedures for checking in and out uniforms. This will be covered before the first football game. Students are expected to take great care with all uniform parts. Students will be held responsible for any damage to the uniform or lost uniform parts. All students are required to purchase band shoes (we do this in summer band from one specific company), and for wind players, performance gloves. In addition, concert band wears formal attire at all competitions. All boys are required to purchase their own tuxedo shirt and bow tie. (Tuxedo is provided.) Formal dresses are provided for all girls.

XIV. Inspections

During marching season inspections will be held for each football game and contest performance. The purpose of inspections is to make sure band members have everything necessary to be successful at those performances. Any student who fails inspection will have to serve a detention following the game or contest performance with Mr. Patricia. Inspection materials lists for each section will be passed out during the first few weeks of school.

XV. School Instruments

The school owns most of the expensive instruments required for performances expected at the high school level. The instruments will be provided for the student's use without charge. If an instance arises where there are more students than there are instruments available, then the director will decide which student(s) will receive the instrument(s). This decision will be based on displayed abilities and attitudes, not on seniority. The student who uses a school owned instrument is expected to properly care and maintain his/her instrument. This includes oiling, greasing, and/or washing the instrument according to the proper care instructions for each instrument. The expense of routine repairs and overhauls of school

instruments will be paid for by the school. The student is expected to immediately report a problem with an instrument to the band director. If it is apparent that the damage to an instrument is a result of carelessness or lack of proper maintenance then the student will be responsible for the repairs. The director will make the decision after the examination of the instrument and/or with the advice of a professional repairman.

XVI. Personal Property

Although precautions are taken, the school cannot guarantee the safety of any personal property, such as clothing, books, cameras, purses, money, watches, etc. left in the band hall. The student is advised not to leave any personal property in the band hall unless he/she is actually in that class. Otherwise, books and belongings should be kept in school lockers. The band hall will be locked during all outside rehearsals. Marching clothes left in the band hall after marching season will be donated to charity after a period of two weeks. The school is not liable for the repair costs of any private instruments.

XVII. Private Lessons

Private lessons are not required, but are highly recommended. Nothing can substitute for the knowledge and expertise gained from studying one on one with an expert on your particular instrument. The more students that are involved with private lessons the greater success our band can have. We have a great private lesson staff available. We encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity.

XVIII. Spring Trips

It is the policy of the Mesquite Independent School District that students will receive the opportunity to travel as a member of their instrumental music program every other year. These trips represent an excellent performance opportunity for our band and are a reward for hard work and dedication to the MMB program. Participation of all band members is highly encouraged. Numerous fund raisers will be held throughout a trip year. Students are **strongly** encouraged to take advantage of these fundraisers to help defray the cost of the trip. **Any student who is ineligible to perform at the UIL Concert/Sightreading Contest WILL NOT be allowed to attend the spring trip regardless if they regain eligibility.**

XIX. Fees

There is no cost for participating in marching band, however monies will be collected every fall for materials such as: t-shirts, shoes, gloves, uniform cleaning and meals for students during travel. We will work hard to keep these costs as low as possible.

XX. Schedule

Band rehearsals are at the following times:

High School Day: 8:35 AM – 3:45 PM

Marching Band: 6:50 AM – 8:05 AM **Daily**
6:30 PM – 8:30 PM **Tuesday Nights**

Wind Symphony	1 st Period A Days
Wind Symphony Ensemble	1 st Period B Days
Wind Ensemble	2 nd Period A Days
Wind Ensemble x 2	2 nd Period B Days
Symphonic Band	3 rd period A Days
Symphonic Band Ensemble	3 rd period B Days
Jazz Band	4 th Period A Days

*** Sectionals and extra rehearsals can be scheduled at the discretion of the director. No performance or rehearsal will be required without at least a fourteen (14) days advanced notice. A copy of the official band calendar will be posted in the band hall.***

XX. Contacts

The band directors may be reached at the following numbers or emails. If no one answers the phone please leave a message on the voicemail.

Mr. Gary Monroe, Director of Bands	972-882-7827	gmonroe@mesquiteisd.org
Mr. Scott Patricia, Associate Director	972-882-7830	spatricia@mesquiteisd.org
Mrs. Melissa Behne, Assistant Director	972-882-7829	mbehene@mesquiteisd.org
Mr. David Becker, Assistant Director	972-882-7829	dbeacker@mesquiteisd.org
Mrs. Jana Davis, Assistant Director	972-882-7829	jdavis@mesquiteisd.org

XXI. Changing Rules

This handbook normally serves as the official record of rules and requirements of the MMB. However, at times during the school year it may become necessary to develop new rules or amend old ones. When this need arises, the students will be notified in class and the new rules posted in the band hall. Once the rule is stated to the students, they are expected to be aware of the rule and comply with it.

XXII. Forms to be Returned

All of the following forms need to be returned to Mr. Becker as soon as possible.

- Handbook Acknowledgement Form
- Medical Form
- UIL 8 Hour rule Form

MMB Performance Schedule 2007-2008

All underlined events are required by all band members

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Site</u>
All morning and Tuesday night rehearsals will begin the first day of school.			
Aug. 31	TBA	<u>Plano High Game</u>	Clark Stadium
Sept. 7	TBA	<u>Plano East Game</u>	Hanby
Sept. 14	TBA	<u>Abilene High Game</u>	Hanby
Sept. 21	TBA	<u>Dallas Carter Game</u>	Memorial Stadium
Sept. 29 (Saturday)	TBA	<u>Midland Lee Game</u>	Shotwell Stadium
Oct. 1	7-9 AM	<u>Fair Day Rehearsal</u>	MHS
Oct. 6	All Day	<u>Mesquite Marching Festival</u>	Memorial
Oct. 12	TBA	<u>John Tyler Game</u>	Rose Stadium
Oct. 13	All Day	<u>Plano East Marching Festival</u>	Plano
Oct. 19	TBA	<u>North Mesquite Game</u>	Memorial
Oct. 24	TBA	<u>UIL Marching Contest</u>	Memorial
Oct. 26	TBA	<u>Horn Game</u>	Hanby
Nov. 2	TBA	<u>Longview Game</u>	Lobo Stadium
Nov. 9	TBA	<u>Tyler Lee Game</u>	Hanby

All Playoff Games will be required performances

Nov. 10	TBA	9 th All Region Auditions	Rockwall Heath
Dec. 1	TBA	All Region Auditions Phase-1	Berkner HS
Dec. 3	TBA	All Region Auditions Phase-2	Berkner HS
Dec. 13	7 PM	<u>MMB Holiday Concert</u>	MHS Auditorium
Jan. 5	TBA	Area Band Auditions	UT Tyler
Jan. 10-12	7pm	MHS Musical	MHS Auditorium
Jan. 24-25	TBA	All Region Band Concert	Garland
Feb. 9	All Day	Solo/ Ensemble Competition	MHS
Mar. 25	7 PM	<u>Pre UIL Concert</u>	MHS Auditorium
April 5 or 12	TBA	<u>Rodeo Parade</u>	Mesquite
April 15-17	TBA	<u>UIL Concert/Sight-reading</u>	Richardson HS
May 1	7 PM	MHS Percussion Concert	MHS Auditorium
May 20	7 PM	<u>MMB Spring Concert</u>	MHS Auditorium
May 23	TBA	MMB Band Banquet	Hampton Inn Suites
June 7	TBA	<u>Graduation</u>	Reunion Arena

Acknowledgement Page

This page must be signed and returned to Mr. Monroe before students will be allowed to audition for a marching position.

I have read and understood the policies and requirements contained in the handbook and agree my child will follow these policies as a member of the Mighty Maroon Band.

Parent Signature _____

Date _____

I have read and understood the policies and requirements contained in the handbook and agree I will follow these policies as a member of the Mighty Maroon Band.

Student Signature _____

Date _____