

Mesquite High Mighty Maroon Band Handbook 2025-26
Mesquite High School Mighty Maroon Band Handbook 2025-26
Mesquite High School Band Staff

Lance Flisowski

Head Band Director – Wind Symphony, Marching Band
972-882-7827 lflisowski@mesquiteisd.org

Jacob Rodriguez

Assistant Band Director – Symphonic Band, Jazz Band
Brass Instrument Inventory, Private Lessons, Masterclasses, Marching Techs
972-882-7829 jrodriguez6@mesquiteisd.org

Omari Wiseman

Assistant Band Director – Concert Band, Color Guard
Woodwind Instrument Inventory, Band Uniform Inventory
972-882-7830 owiseman@mesquiteisd.org

Danyel Buentello

Assistant Band Director – High School and Middle School Percussion
972-882-7872 dbuentello@mesquiteisd.org

Student Account Information: <https://www.presto-assistant.com>

Band Calendar on the Band Website: www.mightymaroonband.com

PREFACE

Congratulations on becoming a part of the rich tradition of excellence and quality in musical performance that is the Mesquite High School Mighty Maroon Band. The MMB has developed a reputation for mature performances of sophisticated wind literature and is known for the excellence of their individual performers and their commitment to artistic integrity.

The success of the band program centers on pride, commitment to task, and the willingness to work hard to achieve a common goal. We do not expect every student in the bands to become a virtuoso musician. We do expect every student to establish both short and long-range goals for improvement on his/her instrument, to exhibit mature, responsible attitudes and actions always, and to be willing to contribute a great deal of hard work for the benefit of all.

The band program exists to provide an excellent music education for the students. This is achieved through individual study and varied performances in many venues, both marching and concert, supporting a curriculum which places an emphasis on comprehensive musicianship. Performance opportunities include large ensembles, chamber ensembles and solos. The skills that band students acquire in these activities are directly related to skills necessary for auditions, presentations, and interviews in other career fields. Band at Mesquite High School is a year-long class. Students are required to be enrolled in the Fall Semester to be in Band during the Spring Semester.

Opportunities are also provided for those who wish to develop their leadership skills. There is an extensive student leadership program, as mentioned in this handbook, and student leaders are relied upon to help achieve organizational goals.

Social skills are also developed. Participation in band enables the students to form close friendships within the school through their collaborative efforts and the opportunity to work with their peers as part of a team. As a

Mesquite High Mighty Maroon Band Handbook 2025-26

member of the MMB, students make long-lasting friendships and develop a sense of comradeship that is unique to our organization. Organizational goals are clearly established, and the students depend heavily on each other to achieve them. As a result, the concepts of responsibility, teamwork and good citizenship will develop as each student experiences the world of music.

The goal of the program is to produce graduates who are knowledgeable about music, can perform successfully with confidence, can operate within a structured framework, and can work to develop the skills necessary to continually become a better life-long musician. In addition, the program strives to produce informed adults of high integrity who understand and appreciate music and musicians, and who will foster the continuing development of artistic endeavors in their community.

The Mighty Maroon Band alumni are highly recruited by colleges and universities and have attended many of the most prestigious professional schools in the country. Several are currently pursuing careers as professional musicians and music educators. Many others have attended top universities in the country studying for careers in other areas while incorporating the disciplines they developed in their music study at Mesquite High School.

Every year is a new challenge – new combinations of personalities and talent, new audiences, new music, new drills, new members, and new leadership from section leaders and band officers. By accepting membership in the Mighty Maroon Band, students agree to perform to the best of their abilities and work together with the band staff to make this year's band the finest musical organization that our combined efforts can produce.

This handbook is designed to convey the guidelines and operating procedures of the MMB. Its purpose is to help answer student/parent questions and be a helpful guide for defining the procedures of the organization. If you need further information, please call and we will assist in every possible way.

Policies and Procedures

I. Excused Absences

The following situations constitute an excused absence.

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

****** All absences require a written note or e-mail ******

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 student's 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 of rehearsal 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.

VI. Grades

Students will be expected to meet the responsibilities for each band class as listed in this handbook.

Since band is an academic music class with some extra-curricular activities attached, the band student's grade will reflect achievement in both curricular and extra-curricular areas.

Grading will be assessed based upon the following:

Participation

- The student will receive a grade for each before/after school sectional and rehearsal during a grading period.
- The student will be on time.
- The student will be on task and focused during all rehearsals.
- The student will have instrument, music, pencil, and supplies.
- The student will be prepared to play his/her part successfully.
- The student will mark music and take notes as needed.

Skills

- The student will be expected to improve individual music skills.
- The student's individual skill development will be evaluated through recorded and live individual music tests, scale tests, and written tests.
- The student will be evaluated on improvement of ensemble skills during daily rehearsals.

Fundamentals

- The student will be expected to improve his/her performance fundamentals.
- The student will be evaluated for improvement of his/her music fundamentals through daily observation during the "basics" part of each rehearsal and during sectionals.
- The student will be expected to demonstrate correct posture, hand position, embouchure, air production, and articulation as monitored during rehearsals.
- The student will be expected to develop a historical knowledge of the literature relative to their respective instrument.

Mesquite High Mighty Maroon Band Handbook 2025-26

Performance

- The student will receive a grade for each performance during a grading period.
- The number of performances will be determined by the performance calendar.
- Performances will be counted as major exams.
- The performance grade will also be based upon formal classroom performances determined by the director such as individual performances over band literature.

Additional Criteria Affecting Grades

-Excused Absences

In accordance with MISD policy, all excused absences will be honored with no grade penalty.

These will include:

Medical emergency or illness, death in the family, religious holiday, Family emergency

Circumstances may justify an excused absence for reasons other than those listed above. Please refer to *Mesquite High School Student Code of Conduct* for a complete list of extenuating circumstances and non-extenuating circumstances. If an excused absence is anticipated, a written notification should be submitted to the Band Director at least two days in advance when possible.

-Tardiness

Each tardy to a before/after school sectional or rehearsal will lower the student's daily grade.

VII. Band Placement

Placement in the Wind Symphony, Symphonic Band or Concert Band will be determined by several criteria. Some of these are: Playing audition, sight-reading, participation in Region Band/Solo & Ensemble, conduct, attitude, dependability, eligibility, attendance for rehearsals and performances, the students' demonstrated ability to perform the level of the music for the band in which they are placed, class schedule conflicts, and the needs of the band program. The playing audition will be held in May for the following school year. Students band placement for the second semester may change based upon the level of all items listed above during the first semester.

VIII. Concurrent Enrollment

As per M.I.S.D. practice, 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. No student shall be placed in the Wind Symphony (Varsity band) if they cannot be enrolled in both A-Day and B-Day band classes.

IX. MMB Marching Band Assignment of Roles

The Mighty Maroon Band is the largest positive image-projecting organization on campus. The group appears in halftime performances during varsity football games and represents Mesquite High School in public community events as well as the competitive marching band arena. Each year from January through July, much thought and effort is put into the numerous factors that determine the number of 'positions' that should be charted in the competition show, or Field Production, for that season. These decisions must be made well in advance because of the time involved in the construction and design of the program each year. These estimations define how the music is arranged and determine the number of drill positions that are plotted. It is the responsibility of the directors to ensure that the students in the marching band are set up for success, including the job of fielding a complete ensemble. The directors carefully consider the following several factors when determining these numbers and making marching assignments for each individual student:

1. Current and prospective enrollment in the band program
2. Student's demonstrated behaviors and attitudes
3. Eligibility history of each student
4. Attendance during the previous school year
5. Basic skills and physical conditioning that allow the student to march and play without threat of injury to him/herself or others
6. Completion of playing and marching pass-offs

Mesquite High Mighty Maroon Band Handbook 2025-26

7. Attendance at New Member Marching Rehearsals in May (new members only)
8. Level of Performance at Marching Auditions in May/June
(Required of all new and returning students)
9. Attendance at Summer Band Camp

Based on these factors, students are preliminarily assigned to one of three categories:

A) Principal Performer B) Secondary Performer C) Stage Crew

This delineation determines the INITIAL type of role that the student will have during the competition show. All other aspects of membership are identical:

INSTRUCTIONAL AND PERFORMANCE PRIVILEGES FOR ALL MEMBERS

(Applies to Principal Performers, Secondary Performers, Stage Crew)

- Rehearse as a unit during all band classes
- Rehearse as a unit during marching fundamentals
- Rehearse as a unit during music ensemble rehearsals
- Perform as a unit at all pep rallies
- Perform as a unit at all parades
- Perform as a unit during football games in the stands
- Perform assigned roles during the Field Production Performances (football games and marching contest)

PERFORMANCE DIFFERENCES

1. Principal Performers march and play during the competition show during halftime and for band contests throughout the season.
2. Secondary Performers march and play during the competition show during halftime for the first one to four football games. At that time, they are assigned to a Principal Performer position if one is open due to injury, academic eligibility, or other issues OR they are assigned to a Stage Crew Role (props, electronics, equipment, etc.) for the remainder of the competitive marching season.
3. Stage Crew: provide assistance with set-up, rehearsal, performances, and tear-down of props, electronics, and all other equipment.

ATTENDANCE CONSIDERATIONS

A Principal Performer may forfeit his or her role if they miss a performance of any kind. In addition, a loss of position may result from unexcused absences, extended absences (even if excused), tardiness or early departure from rehearsals.

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.

Students enrolled in the band program are expected to always display exemplary behavior. At every performance as a band member, you represent your family, the Mighty Maroon Band, Mesquite High School, Mesquite ISD, and the city of Mesquite, Texas. Make sure that your actions prove that the Mighty Maroon Band is a class act in every way. Band students are welcome in the band hall before and after school. However, do not disturb if there is a rehearsal or sectional in progress. Show every courtesy to the director and students involved.

Hazing within the band program is not tolerated, and students are expected to follow Mesquite High School Student Code of Conduct.

Students are allowed to use the copy machine only with the permission of a director.

Mesquite High Mighty Maroon Band Handbook 2025-26

The following requirements will make our rehearsals more productive and will contribute to a positive learning environment:

➤ **Mighty Maroon Band Rehearsal Guidelines**

- ❑ Be seated with instrument, music, pencil, and supplies when the tardy bell rings.
- ❑ Show good rehearsal etiquette by being a good team player – study your part quietly while the director works with another section. Always Remain on task; do not talk or interrupt the focus of a rehearsal.
- ❑ Always maintain proper posture, which is important for all players.
- ❑ Be intent on improving your performance skills.
- ❑ Raise your hand and ask questions if you need more individual help.
- ❑ Leave your cases in your locker during rehearsal and your backpacks at the side of the room.
- ❑ Do not leave purses or other valuables unattended in the band hall.
- ❑ Students are solely responsible for the care and maintenance of their assigned equipment and personal items.
- ❑ No food, gum, or drink is allowed in the band hall. We all take pride in keeping our band hall clean and organized.
- ❑ All instruments remain in cases with latches closed inside a locker when not in use. The locker should be locked. You are responsible for all personal items and school owned equipment checked out to you.
- ❑ Lockers shall remain clean. Items other than instruments and music should not be kept in lockers.
- ❑ Please use a lock on your locker. You are responsible for all items in your locker.
- ❑ No food or drinks (including bottled water) should be left in lockers.
- ❑ Disorderly behavior or abusive language will not be tolerated. MISD Code of Conduct will be enforced.
- ❑ Practice rooms are for the convenience of our private lesson staff and for those who use them for instrument practice. They are not to be used for any other purpose.
- ❑ Please be considerate of directors' requests for assistance and/or performance of tasks around the band hall. All students will adhere to *Mesquite High School Student Code of Conduct*.

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 non-exempt class for a nine weeks grading period will be ineligible to compete or perform with that group for a minimum of the next three weeks. At the end of the three-week period, a student may become eligible again if he/she is passing all non-exempt classes at that time. If they are not passing all classes at that grade check, they remain ineligible for the remainder of the grading period. Because of this law, any student showing an inability to consistently be eligible could be removed from the Wind Symphony or Symphonic Band and be placed in a lower band or be removed from the band program.

- A student who receives, at the end of any grading period a grade below 70 in any academic class (other than an identified advanced class) or a student with disabilities who fails to meet the standards in the Individual Education Plan (IEP) may not participate in extra-curricular activities for at least three school weeks.

This is Texas State Law.

- An ineligible student is still allowed and expected to practice/rehearse.
- The student regains eligibility when the principal and teachers determine that he/she has: (1) earned a passing grade (70 or above) in all academic classes, other than those that are advanced, and (2) completed the three school weeks of ineligibility.
- Example: School week ends on Friday – Students who are losing eligibility have a seven-calendar day grace period, and students who are regaining eligibility have a seven calendar day waiting period. Eligibility is lost or regained the following Friday at the time the regular school day ends or would end if that day is a holiday.
- The Mighty Maroon Band staff will enforce all eligibility rules and regulations. Students who are ineligible will continue to rehearse during their band class and at all scheduled extra-curricular rehearsals to earn their band grade. Ineligible students may not travel with the band or participate in extracurricular performances.

XII. Student Leaders

At the conclusion of every school year the MMB has auditions for the selection of drum majors, section leaders and other band leadership positions. The job that is done by these students is very important to the success of the band.

Mesquite High Mighty Maroon Band Handbook 2025-26

Responsibilities include any duty that the band directors see fit. In addition, the leadership team is required to work (all day if needed) at all events hosted by MISD (Marching Contests) and the MMB (UIL Solo/Ensemble Contest). Any Leadership Team member not fulfilling duties set forth by the band directors can be dismissed from the Leadership Team. 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 one year 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. You must be able to attend all of Summer Band Camp.
- v. You must have a history of dependability, responsibility, eligibility and shown leadership skills in the MMB.
- vi. Your past academic eligibility for UIL events will be considered when selecting leadership positions.
- vii. If you receive a Class II disciplinary offense or higher, as per the Student Code of Conduct for MISD, you **are not** eligible to audition for a leadership position.

B. Audition:

- i. You must attend the clinic to learn the basics of conducting and vocal commands.
- ii. Your audition will be judged on the following:
 1. Basic conducting patterns (4/4, 3/4, 2/4)
 2. Giving cues in each pattern
 3. Basic cut offs
 4. Conduct music selected by the Directors
 5. 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. Interviews are held as a courtesy to the students.

A. Requirements:

You must meet the following requirements to apply 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. You must be able to attend all of Summer Band Camp.
- iv. You must have a history of dependability, responsibility, eligibility and shown leadership skills in the MMB.
- v. Your past academic eligibility for UIL events will be considered when selecting leadership positions
- vi. If you receive a Class II disciplinary offense or higher, as per the Student Code of Conduct for MISD, you **are not** eligible to audition for a leadership position.

B. Interview:

- i. You must complete the Section Leader Application Letter
- ii. You must complete a Student Leader Interview with the Directors

XIII. Uniforms and Concert Black

Marching Band - Each student is responsible for replacing any uniform part that is damaged or lost.

All students are responsible for following the proper procedures for checking in and out uniforms. Band uniforms (pant, coat, hat, plume) for marching season are provided by the MISD. Band students will be charged a uniform replacement

Mesquite High Mighty Maroon Band Handbook 2025-26

fee for any damage caused due to negligence. Students are expected to take great care with all uniform parts. All students are required to purchase band shoes (we do this in summer band from one specific company), long black socks, band polo shirt, band performance shirt and for wind players performance gloves. You the marching uniform will be checked out to you towards the beginning of marching season. You are responsible for its whereabouts and safety at all times. Do not switch uniform parts with other students without approval from a band director. The uniform must be hung up properly and stored in a dry location when not being worn. Uniforms will be checked in at the end of marching season. You will be responsible for having the uniform professionally dry-cleaned whenever it needs to be cleaned. Professional dry-cleaning will be required at the end of marching season check-in. The uniforms may not be laundered.

The marching jacket and marching pants must be dry-cleaned. Do not have the gauntlets dry-cleaned. Do not have the hat dry-cleaned. Only give the dry-cleaner the marching jacket and marching pants. Do not give the dry cleaner the hanger or the uniform bag.

Concert Black Attire: We will wear “Concert Black” for all concert band performances. Students are responsible for providing their own attire:

Ladies: Black shirt and black dress slacks OR a black dress that must reach at least to the knee
 The shirt/dress **MUST** cover your shoulders (spaghetti straps do not count)
 Black, closed-toe dress shoes
 The clothes should **NOT** be tight/form fitting – this is inappropriate for a concert performance

Gentlemen: Black long sleeved dress shirt and black dress slacks
 Black Socks
 Black dress shoes
 Black belt

Anyone wearing an outfit that does not meet the Concert Black specifications or is deemed inappropriate by any Director will be sent home and receive a Zero for the Major Performance Grade if they are unable to be dressed appropriately in time for the performance.

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 their performance grade lowered and may be barred from performance at that event. Inspection materials lists will distributed/posted prior to performances.

XV. School Instruments

The school owns the most 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 students will receive their own instruments and which students will share instruments. 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 a 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, phones, 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 in that class. The band hall will be locked during all outside rehearsals.

Mesquite High Mighty Maroon Band Handbook 2025-26

Marching clothes left in the band hall during marching season will be donated to charity after a period of one week. The school is not liable for the repair costs of any private instruments.

XVII. Lockers

All band students will be assigned a locker for the purpose of storing their instrument and music in the band hall. You may not share lockers. Any students caught sharing a locker will be subject to disciplinary action. You can be assigned a school owned combination lock for your locker. You are responsible for the contents of your locker, including if you choose not to lock it. Only school provided locks may be used. During marching season, you may store your water jug and marching shoes in your locker if there is available space. At the conclusion of marching seasons those items must be removed. Lockers are subject to inspection by directors at any time. Any unapproved items found in your locker will be immediately removed. Any items against school district policy will be turned over to the appropriate grade level principal. Students may not write on the walls/doors of their lockers. Any student found violating this policy will be reported to their grade level principal for the destruction of MISD property and will be subject to MISD disciplinary action. When using your instrument during rehearsals/performance, you are required to place your instrument case back in the locker. Do not leave your instrument case on the floor of the locker room or on top of the lockers. Whenever you are not using your instrument, it should be properly stored in your locker. Any instrument left on the locker room floor or band hall floor will be confiscated by the band directors and will require a meeting with the student and a parent to discuss instrument care before the student may receive the instrument.

XVIII. Private Lessons

Private lessons are highly recommended for all students. Nothing can substitute for the knowledge and expertise gained from studying one on one with an expert on your instrument. The more students that are involved with private lessons the greater success our band will have throughout the year. We have a great private lesson staff available and have scholarships available to help pay the cost. We encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity. If you are interested, please see Mr. Locke.

XIX. Fees

There is no cost for participating in band at MHS, however monies will be collected every fall for materials such as: Band shirts, marching shoes, marching gloves, uniform cleaning, meals for students during travel, etc. All money will be collected by MHS Band Directors, paid at the ticket kiosk, or paid online through the MISD In-Touch website: <https://tx-mesquite.intouchrecepting.com>

XX. Presto-Assistant

MISD uses Presto-Assistant to track band student information. You have access to this system by visiting online www.presto-assistant.com. Presto-Assistant contains information such as student and parent contact information (which you are responsible for keeping updated), instruments assigned to students, lockers assigned to students, Band Fees owed and Band Fees collected, spring trip accounts, etc.

All band forms and the band calendar are posted on the band website: www.mightymaroonband.com. You are responsible for all information posted on the website.

XXI. Band Schedule

High School Day: 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM

Wind Symphony – Period 1A
Symphonic Band – Period 2A
Concert Band – Period 3A
Color Guard – Period 1A (1st semester) and 4A (2nd semester)
Jazz Band – Period 8B

Wind Symphony Ensemble – Period 5B
Symphonic Band Ensemble – Period 6B
Concert Band Ensemble – Period 7B

*** Sectionals and extra rehearsals can be scheduled at the discretion of the director.

A copy of the official band calendar will be posted in the band hall and on the Google calendar at www.mightymaroonband.com.

XXII. 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.

XXIII. Forms Due

All forms (Acknowledgement Page, Medical Form, UIL 8-Hour Rule Form, UIL PPE forms), must be completed, signed, and returned as soon as possible.

XXIV. Bands at Mesquite High School

➤ **Individual Band Responsibilities**

Students are placed by audition into one of the band classes at Mesquite High School: Wind Symphony, Symphonic Band, Concert Band, Percussion Class, and Color Guard Class. Our curriculum is designed to improve individual performing skills throughout the year. The responsibilities for students in each group are outlined below.

Percussion: during the 1st Semester all percussion will be enrolled in Wind Symphony for both A day and B day. During the 2nd Semester percussion students will be assigned to a band class in which they will be “double blocked” for the 2nd semester.

WIND SYMPHONY (Varsity) – Lance Flisowski, conductor

- Participation in marching band
- Performance of marching music from memory
- Preparation of All-Region music
- Audition for All-Region Band required
- Participation in UIL Solo/Ensemble contest (Solo required)
- Performance of concert music as assigned by the director
- Required Attendance at all section rehearsals and full band rehearsals as scheduled
- Required attendance at all performances
- Private Lessons are required

SYMPHONIC BAND (Non-Varsity) – Jacob Rodriguez, conductor

- Participation in marching band
- Performance of marching music from memory
- Preparation of All-Region music
- Audition for All-Region Band required
- Participation in UIL Solo/Ensemble contest (Students in private lessons required to perform a Solo, students not in lessons will perform an Ensemble)
- Performance of concert music as assigned by the director
- Required Attendance at all section rehearsals and full band rehearsals as scheduled
- Required attendance at all performances
- Private Lessons encouraged

CONCERT BAND (Sub-Non-Varsity) – Sammantha Barringer, conductor

- Participation in marching band
- Performance of marching music from memory
- Preparation of excerpts of the All-Region music during the fall
- Encouraged to audition for All-Region Band
- Participation in UIL Solo/Ensemble contest (Ensemble required)
- Performance of concert music as assigned by the director
- Required Attendance at all section rehearsals and full band rehearsals as scheduled

Mesquite High Mighty Maroon Band Handbook 2025-26

- Required attendance at all performances
- Private Lessons recommended

PERCUSSION – Charles Stahl, director

- Participation in marching band
- Performance of marching music from memory
- Development of individual and ensemble percussion skills
- Preparation of All-Region
- Audition for All-Region Band (required to be a member of Wind Symphony or Symphonic Band for Spring Semester)
- Participation in Wind Symphony, Symphonic Band, or Concert Band during the Spring Term
- Private Lessons are encouraged
- Participation in UIL Solo/Ensemble contest (all students in private lessons will perform a Solo, all students will perform an ensemble)

COLORGUARD – James Thomas, Director

- Development of individual basics including flag, rifle, and sabre skills
- Development of individual movement basics
- Development of ensemble skills including timing of flags and body movement
- Performance of marching contest routine from memory
- Participation in all marching band activities in the Fall Term
- The Fall Term class is open to students who do not perform on a band instrument as well as band students who want to have additional work in this area.
- Current woodwind, brass, and percussion students (at any level of the program) may be part of the color guard; however, they may not quit playing their instrument and solely participate in Guard.

XXV. MARCHING BAND

Background Information

The Mighty Maroon Band has enjoyed a high reputation for excellence in music performance, including marching band, for many years. The marching band is a highly visible aspect of the band program. The marching band provides performance opportunities for band students while integrating the band program into school and community activities.

Marching Band Participation

As an integral part of the band program, the district's philosophy is that educationally, historically and musically, marching band is an essential ingredient in a well-rounded music education in band. The MISD believes that music students need to develop the ability to participate and perform in different ensemble experiences which, for band students, includes the marching band. As a result, marching band is required for all high school students who elect to take the academic band performance courses that included Wind Symphony, Wind Ensemble, Concert Band, and Percussion. Philosophy regarding all aspects of high school band stems from TEA/UIL guidelines which govern all Texas schools.

Exceptions to this requirement for marching band participation will be considered at the discretion of the Head Band Director. Any student granted an exception would not receive a physical education waiver.

Physical Education Requirement

As an artistic endeavor, each rehearsal and performance by the marching band is mentally and physically demanding. For the full marching band performance, students are always on task and must bring to the experience their best performance skills. As a result, each student in the marching band is eligible to receive a one-half physical education credit for each fall semester participation in marching band that counts towards graduation requirements. To receive the credit, you must be enrolled in PE Band. This is a class that is scheduled in "Zero Hour" before school begins. It is a separate course on your report card from your band classes.

Marching Band an Integral Component of State Curriculum Requirements

The music and performance skills and techniques, along with the associated academic skills in the band program, are derived from implementation of the expectations found in the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). The curriculum specifically includes requirements such as demonstrating musical skills and artistry, performing in different musical mediums, and experiencing music through a wider range of music literature, which are addressed through the marching band. Each performance by the marching band provides students the opportunity to demonstrate musical artistry through the ensemble, individual music performance skills and techniques, marching performance skills and techniques, and critical thinking skills that include auditory, spatial, and visual awareness.

Grading

Since marching band is a part of the academic band course and therefore, part of the graded curriculum, students in marching band are responsible for assimilating the academic aspects of the band elective as found in the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). Attendance at rehearsals and performances is mandatory and will be integrated into the student's grade for band in accordance with TEA-UIL guidelines.

Practice Time Limits

Marching band practice times are regulated by TEA/UIL guidelines. Adherence to these guidelines is the responsibility of the Head Band Director and is monitored by the MISD Director of Fine Arts. Please see the Marching Band *Statement of Compliance* (available on Charms) for more information.

Marching Band Attendance

Students are expected to attend all rehearsals and performances of the marching band. An unexcused absence from a performance/rehearsal will jeopardize one's position in the marching band. Note the band calendar and clear all the performance dates now!

A student is tardy to rehearsal if he or she is not in the attendance block with instrument and supplies when the drum major begins the rehearsal. Habitual tardiness and/or absences from rehearsal/performance will jeopardize one's position in the marching block and may result in removal of the student from performances.

Rehearsal Schedule

An updated rehearsal and performance schedule for each week will be posted online and in the band hall each Monday. Specific timelines for each performance will be posted as available.

Pep Rallies

All marching band members will attend unless excused by a director in advance. Students are asked to refrain from playing their instruments on their way to or from a pep rally. Seating shall be by section as determined by the director.

Game Procedures

Members of the marching band will be expected to adhere to the following game procedures. Remember to show your PRIDE in the Mighty Maroon Band at all times while in uniform!

- ❑ Each person is responsible for his/her equipment at all times.
- ❑ Section Leaders and Drum Majors will conduct inspection prior to departure. Inspection will include appropriate wearing of the uniform, instrument and equipment in good working condition, and all necessary music in a flip folder.
- ❑ Always be in full uniform.
- ❑ No visible jewelry.
- ❑ The only hats allowed to be worn while in uniform are MMB hats.
- ❑ Students will remain in the stands until permission is given to leave.
- ❑ Sit in assigned seats and do not move about the band during the game.
- ❑ No food, gum or drink is allowed in uniform unless instructed by Band Directors.
- ❑ All students must have music in a flip folder. Students provide a lyre for their instrument.
- ❑ Play your very best each time the group performs and do not play your instrument at any time the band is not playing.
- ❑ For the protection of both personal and school-owned instruments, no organized motion of instruments is allowed at any time.

Mesquite High Mighty Maroon Band Handbook 2025-26

- ❑ Instruments must be always held. Do not place your instrument on the ground, stands, etc.
- ❑ Percussion is only to play with the full band or as a section on an organized cadence or feature as instructed by the Band Directors.
- ❑ No one except band personnel is allowed in the band section. MMB alumni or special visitors are sometimes exceptions, but only by special permission from the directors.
- ❑ Always watch the director and drum majors when he/she is standing in front of the band. Watch closely for cutoffs in the music, as the band will sometimes stop playing when play is resumed on the field.
- ❑ File orderly from the stands to the assembling point before the half-time show. Do not play instruments in transit.
- ❑ Cheer with the cheerleaders. Group cheers are acceptable, but “off color” or unsportsmanlike cheers will not be tolerated.
- ❑ Do not make discourteous remarks to visiting bands, peers, and other students.
- ❑ Students will ride the bus to and from all games and performances. No speakers are allowed on the bus – only personal electronic devices with earphones. All students are expected to follow rules established by bus drivers and to be courteous to band chaperones.
- ❑ Upon arrival back at MHS, students will return uniforms and hat boxes and put away equipment.
- ❑ In cold weather, students are allowed to wear a jacket over their uniform coat. Any additional gloves, scarves, or head covering are subject to approval by the director and school district guidelines regarding appropriate attire.

XXVI. SUMMER HEAT GUIDELINES FOR MARCHING BAND

- ❑ Rehearsal dress includes shorts, a light-colored T-shirt, hat or cap, shoes (a cross-trainer type preferred, no boots, flip-flops, Crocs, slide, etc.), and socks. For safety reasons, students will not be allowed to march in any other footwear.
- ❑ Students must have individual water jugs labeled with their name at all rehearsals. Water jugs will be kept close and frequent water breaks will be taken.
- ❑ Students should eat breakfast and drink plenty of fluids before morning rehearsals. Good nutrition is a must to remain healthy during marching season.
- ❑ Students are trained by the directors to watch for signs of dehydration. Students should monitor their bodies to make sure they perspire heavily during rehearsal. Lack of perspiration is a sign of dehydration.
- ❑ Students should sit down immediately if dizzy or weak. A director will aid.
- ❑ During rehearsals, directors will constantly monitor the weather conditions and make adjustments as necessary for the safety of the students.
- ❑ Water will be provided for students at games and competitions. All students are required to provide their own water jug for all rehearsals, games, and contests.

XXVII. TRANSPORTATION

The Head Band Director will determine transportation to and from all band performances. If a student must leave directly from a performance, he/she can be released only to his/her parent/guardian with written notice given prior to the event. The Head Band Director reserves the right to deny any requests.

Student Travel Guidelines

- Follow all standard bus/plane rules.
- Allow the chaperone to check roll quickly and efficiently.
- Refrain from using vulgar or rude language or engaging in rude behavior.
- Always be respectful to, appreciative of, and mindful of the chaperones.
- Be respectful of other passengers and other groups.
- For the safety and comfort of all students, no playing of an instrument is allowed on a bus.

Acknowledgement Page

This page must be signed and returned to Band Directors before students will be considered 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 Name (Printed) _____

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 Name (Printed) _____

Student Signature _____

Date _____