



Madera South High School
Home of the Mighty Stallions

Madera South High School Band Handbook

Table of Contents

Our Mission Statement.....	1
Course Objectives	1
Band and Guard Code of Conduct.....	2
MSHS Band Letter (Letterman's Patch).....	2
Rehearsal Schedule.....	2
<i>Fall After School/Night Rehearsal Schedule:</i>	<i>2</i>
Music.....	3
Uniform Policies	3
Locker Policies	3
School-loaned Instruments	4
Grading Policy	4
<i>Your Band Grade</i>	<i>4</i>
MSHS Stallion Band Backers	5
The MSHS Ensembles	6
<i>Marching Band</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Wind Ensemble/Symphonic Band.....</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Required Concert Attire:</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Conservatory</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Jazz Ensemble (Period 0)</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Winter Guard</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Winter Percussion</i>	<i>6</i>



Our Mission Statement

The mission of the MSHS Stallion Band and Color Guard is to encourage a lifelong love for music and the arts, teach independence, responsibility, dedication, teamwork and leadership while developing life skills through community service and music performance.

Course Objectives

Over the course of the year, you will learn much more than music. Upon successful completion of this course, you will:

- develop self-discipline and teamwork
- develop a solid and reliable work ethic
- develop good time-management habits
- motivate yourself and others as you develop your leadership skills
- discover that your creativity will flourish and your self-esteem will grow
- create memories and life-long memories.

Band and Guard Code of Conduct

ALL MSHS band and guard members need to hold themselves to a high standard of conduct. We represent our community, our staff, our director, and most importantly, ourselves. Our students **will** behave in a manner consistent with the finest caliber of students, and will have the highest quality of group conduct. We will be as respected for our high standards and our positive attitude as we will be for our musical abilities.

Some of the main policies are as follows:

- Under **no circumstances** will any band member be involved with alcoholic beverages, or illegal drugs of any kind.
- Under **no circumstances** and at no time will any band member be involved with smoking, or tobacco use of any kind.

A breach of any of the above rules will result in **automatic dismissal** from the band, and/or further disciplinary action as outlined in the Madera South High School Student Handbook.

MSHS Band Letter (Letterman's Patch)

At our annual Awards Banquet, various awards and patches are given to the most dedicated and hardest-working students. To receive a MSHS Band Letter (patch), you must successfully complete a **full year** within the program. This includes the following performance requirements:

- Fall: WBA Championships (Marching Band)
- Spring: Respective Spring Ensemble (SJVCGPR Winter Guard/Percussion Championships or complete all Symphonic Band/Wind Ensemble CMEA Festival)

Rehearsal Schedule

Attendance at MSHS is recorded, and rehearsals are **mandatory**. For afternoon family events or Doctor's appointments, please schedule for them to fall on a FREE DAY OF THE WEEK (usually Tuesdays/Thursdays).

Rehearsals are important review sessions for the performances. At this competitive level, our performances are our final exams. We have one opportunity, and when the tournament is over, it's over. There are no make-up "exams". How we score is absolutely based upon how we rehearse. This course is labeled as a PE (Physical Education), and most of the PE portion of the course takes place during stadium and field rehearsals. If someone is in school, but misses rehearsal, their grade can be adversely affected. Please understand that this policy is put into place with consideration to the fairness of each individual member and for the overall benefit of the group – illness and family emergencies (accompanied by a phone call from home or an in-person parent visit) are the only excused absences.

Fall After School/Night Rehearsal Schedule:

Mondays: 3:30pm – 6:30pm @ MSHS Practice Field

Wednesdays: 3:30-6:30pm @ MSHS Football Field

Note- Schedule may be subject to change

Additional sectionals are scheduled per section.

Night rehearsals will start promptly on time. ALL students will be in the attendance block before 3:30pm preparing for rehearsal (instruments out, setting up the field, helping out, etc.). If you are not in the attendance block by 3:30pm, **you will lose your participation points for the rehearsal.**

Parents: Please plan on picking up your students approximately 10 minutes **after** the rehearsal's dismissal (clean up, section meetings etc). Rehearsals will end at 6:30pm and will be followed by announcements and other important issues.

Front Ensemble (Pit) Personnel: During our after school/evening rehearsals, on occasion, these students will need to stay a little longer than the rest of the band members to put away the pit equipment. If your son or daughter is in the pit please add 15-20 minutes to the pick-up time.

Music

It is suggested that you provide a binder with page protectors for your music. Under no circumstances are you allowed to take "ORIGINALS". You are only to be given copies of music, so that if a part is accidentally misplaced or destroyed, it can be replaced. Everyone is to have his or her own copy of the music. Do not count on someone else having the music for you. Not having your music and/or folder and a sharpened pencil with an eraser may directly affect your grade.

Uniform Policies

When in uniform:

1. Always watch your language as a band member, but **especially** when in uniform.
2. No awkward displays of affection in uniform. General rule of thumb: If you wouldn't want your parents seeing you do something, it shouldn't be done in uniform.
3. Always have your black Stallion Under-Armor shirt, shorts, black crew socks, gloves and shoes present with you to complete the uniform. Long sleeve thermals/shirts are allowed during colder parts of the season
4. Uniforms must always be worn in their entirety at performances. At no time should an individual be out in public view with their uniform in disarray or partially on. Occasionally when we are traveling to and from performances on the bus we may go in what we call "Half Dress", which is full uniform without wearing the jacket. We do take the jacket; we just don't wear it on the bus.
5. **Stallion PRIDE!!** When wearing the band uniform you represent our band, Madera South High School, and your director, Mr. Rossette. Demonstrate at all times that you are proud to wear this uniform.
6. We **never** eat or drink (except water or ice chips) in uniform.
7. HANG UP your uniform properly: Pants folded correctly, jacket hung up the right way on the hanger, and gauntlets hung over the hanger.
8. HANG UP your uniform in the garment bag half (1/2) unzipped so that it can air out. This is very important.
9. HANG UP your uniform in the correct location on the big rig – in numerical order!
10. **DO NOT** put dirty socks in the uniform bag. Take them home and wash them.
11. Due to the military look of the uniform, girls are to wear minimal make-up, no jewelry, and no finger nail polish. Your hair is to be off the collar and up under the hat. Remove all visible jewelry. When traveling each student is responsible for his/her instrument, uniform, hat, and shoes.

Locker Policies

- Mr. Rossette may enter any locker at any time. General rule of thumb: If you don't want Mr. Rossette to see it, do not store it in your locker
- NO food or drink in the locker at any time (unless you enjoy having pests such as ants or other, much larger mice-like rodents sharing the locker with you)
- NO posters, stickers, or mirrors, inside or outside the lockers.
- Members are required to provide their own lock for their locker. Each member must give their combination to Mr. Rossette and keep it updated in Charms if ever changed. The combinations will be stored in Charms. These combinations will be given to no one else except the owner of that locker in the event the student forgets his or her combination.
- DO NOT share your locker combination with any other students or adult except Mr. Rossette. This is how lockers get broken into and things turn up missing.
- **The locker is a privilege, not a right.** Non-compliance with any of the above listed rules will result in the loss of your locker privilege for the remainder of the year.

School-loaned Instruments

If you are issued a school instrument, **you** are responsible for it completely. If you loan it to someone else and they lose it or severely damage it, it is still your responsibility. You will be required to pay for all major repairs such as dent removal and replacement of a mouthpiece, if negligence is deemed apparent by Mr. Rossette. By signing the instrument check-out contract, you are agreeing to be financially responsible for the instrument. Failure to repair or replace a lost, stolen or damaged instrument may freeze your student records, may prevent you from graduating, and can result in a failing band grade and loss of course credit.

Grading Policy

Band members are expected to do well in school; all of your classes are important. Most band members should be on the honor roll. If you are not doing well in a subject – **DO NOT WAIT UNTIL IT IS TOO LATE- GET HELP!!** Tell Mr. Rossette and he will see what he can work out. Mr. Rossette is here to help you be successful in all aspects of your life. Don't wait until grades are a week away or until final exams.

Your Band Grade

Your evaluation is based upon three areas. They are:

- **Performances (45%)** – You must attend all performances and rehearsals. If you miss a scheduled performance, your grade will be dropped two full grade points for that grading period. The exceptions are: **a.)** if you are in the hospital or should be **b.)** you are in mourning the loss of a family member. That's it. So, if you are earning an "A" and you miss a performance you are now earning a "C". Only students who attend all performances and rehearsals will be eligible for an "A".
- **Tests (45%)** – You are expected to learn the material presented. Students will be tested on all of their major and minor scale at least once per semester (performance exams), as well as being tested on assigned sections of a piece of music. The scores that you receive on these tests will be averaged into your grade. So take them very seriously.
- **Participation (10%)** – Participation is not only being at the rehearsal, but participating in it. In order to be counted for participation fully, you (as the student) must come prepared. That means bringing everything necessary for rehearsal. Failure to come fully prepared will result in a lowering of the grade.

You are required to have your instrument and music **every day at every rehearsal**, unless Mr. Rossette tells you otherwise.

Fundraisers and Financial Information

Any and ALL band associated donations and/or fundraiser money is to be given to the booster treasurer or dropped in Ft. Knox (drop box/safe located directly in front of the band office). Mr. Rossette will not handle any student monies, *please do not ask*. PLEASE MAKE SURE TO FILL OUT A DEPOSIT ENVELOPE WHEN HANDING IN MONEY. You will be able to track ALL financial transactions in the student/parent section of Charms. As a courtesy, when permitted, we will give you a receipt for any transactions or donations made. Make sure you retain all of your receipts for record keeping purposes.

How You Can Help

- Pay your donations promptly. Our program exists, in part, due to donations and fundraising by our band families. We would like to suggest monthly donations of \$10 to \$20 dollars, if and when possible.
- Support all fundraising activities. If time permits, please volunteer to help at our fundraising efforts.
- Attend booster meetings. This is a great way to learn more about the band and meet other families.
- Stay informed. Information about the Band and Guard is made available from many sources, including email, our band website, MSHS Band Facebook, Charms Office and this manual. Our goal is to ensure that every attempt is made to keep you informed.
- Mark your calendars. Times and locations of events have been set for the fall, please review the attached master calendar and plan ahead.

Financial Aid Policy

It is the intention of the MSHS Music faculty and the MSHS Stallion Band Boosters that **no student** lose the opportunity to participate in the music program due to financial reasons. Requests for individualized financial assistance, including flexible payment plans, can be arranged on a case by case basis. Contact the band office for more information.

MSHS Stallion Band Backers

The Madera South High School Band Backers Club is a valuable organization whose purpose is to provide support for the band program in many capacities. The boosters serve to provide the means, through the band director and his staff, by which the instrumental music department will meet the highest of goals.

The band boosters meet periodically throughout the school year, at times and dates determined by the executive board of the organization. As we are continually seeking support, all parents and/or guardians are strongly encouraged to attend and participate in meetings. Parents and/or guardians who are enthusiastic and dedicated may wish to consider becoming either a board member or committee chairperson. The board makes most of the decisions about booster support and contributions to the band. All board meetings will be open to all members (all parents are members) of the booster club. Regular meeting times and dates will be announced in advance and you are invited to come to any of them.

Please don't wait for someone to ask—**you are always welcome!**

It is almost impossible these days to run a competitive band program without appropriate financial support. Although the school and the district take care of many expenses, there are always many things for which they are not able to pay. For this reason, the primary goal of the boosters is to provide fundraising opportunities that will enable our band to pay for bussing, competition fees, payment of instructional staff, and other essential elements vital for the instrumental music department's success.

Although the boosters are indispensable for the smoothest operation of the band, the band director is the primary decision maker for the program and its activities. The director is solely responsible for decisions including but not limited to: selection of instructional staff, purchasing of music and equipment, and the philosophical objectives of the instrumental music department.

The MSHS Ensembles

Marching Band

This is the most exposed group of the program. The marching performs at football games, parades, field show competitions and other events. Every member of the program must be a part of the marching band. There will be a few members who are assigned to be an alternate; any students being designated as alternates will be done so at the sole discretion of the band director. Those members will still be required to be at all band related events, and will have a chance to march if another member does not adhere to the proper attendance procedures as outlined in this handbook.

Wind Ensemble/Symphonic Band

This **audition only** group will focus on the basics but will move at a little faster pace. This class will work on listening, balance, and intonation. Additionally, this group will be introduced to leadership training. This group is the core of the entire program. The Wind Ensemble performs very challenging music and will attend several festivals and concerts throughout the course of the academic school year.

Required Concert Attire:

Guys: Black dress pants – NOT jeans of any kind but rather nice black slacks, a black dress shirt and a SOLID BLACK tie. You will also need to wear black shoes and black socks. This is not a fashion show -- it is a concert. Conservative dress is required.

Girls: A nice FULL LENGTH BLACK dress or a BLACK pantsuit. Please wear nylons and dress shoes (no open-toed shoes or heels. Flats are preferred). This is not a fashion show-- it is a concert. Conservative dress is required.

Conservatory

Throughout the year, wind musicians will participate in our wind conservatory. This is part of the fall season rehearsals and will continue into the concert season. These rehearsals will give us an opportunity to work on the music more than we would usually get to. We will occasionally bring in specialists in the field to help each section, mainly in developing their abilities for advanced playing as well as helping individuals prepare for auditions.

Jazz Ensemble (Period 0)

The Jazz Ensemble is an elite group of musicians who will audition for the positions available. Students will re-audition every year. This group will solely focus on music of the jazz era and will participate in many different festivals and concerts throughout the community and the state. Although this group will be playing music of a different style, the same basic music concepts will be worked on and improved upon.

Winter Guard

Winter Guard is the indoor version of field show with only the color guard. The group performs in a gym. To be in winter guard, you need to go through the audition process, and be accepted. The group will perform about eight times from January through April.

Winter Percussion

Similar to Winter Guard, Winter Percussion is the indoor version of field show, except only the percussion ensemble performs. The group performs in a gym. To be in winter percussion, you need to go through the audition, and be accepted. The group will perform about eight times from January through April.