

# Madison County High School Bands 2024 - 2025



## Student-Parent Band Handbook

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## **Introduction**

Dear students,

Being a part of band is more than just “being in band”, the goal for being in band is to prepare you for the real world after high school. Statistics show that band students academically perform higher than the “average” student. You will be surprised to know that there are more music students are accepted in medical school than even pre-med students. Being in the band is an experience that will enrich your mind and soul.

When I was a student in middle school band, often my band director would remind us that “you spell band with FUN.” My philosophy is that band should be the highlight of your high school career. How do we achieve having fun in band? The answer can be found by practicing good discipline, attending every rehearsal, performance, and class with the idea of being ready to give 100 % of your effort. A band that is not dedicated, disciplined, nor motivated will not be a successful one! Therefore, band will not be fun. A successful band is always a fun band to be in!

Band is a family based on teamwork. As a family, we are committed to have each other’s backs no matter the obstacle. Every person will hold each other accountable and responsible for the greater good of our family! There will be times that some “family members” may not exactly agree with each other, but all agreements can be made in a mature and sensible fashion. We are here to achieve the same goals and results, work together as a team regardless of grade level or officer position, and mentor each other in the pursuit greatness. No section or individual is more important than the other. Everyone is equal to each other.

### **The Goals of the Madison County High School Band Program**

- Ensure all students have the opportunity to participate in active music-making within the school.
- Allow students to develop and strengthen skills acquired in band and transfers those skills to other aspects of life.
- Promote a positive and friendly learning environment for all students.
- Instill citizenship, respect for others and one’s self, and other fundamental qualities necessary to be an outstanding member of society.
- Give outstanding public performances.
- Enable students, parents, and alumni to become lifelong advocates of music.
- Serve the Madison County community.

## Letter to Parents

Dear Parents,

I am honored to be your child's band director. I want to make it clear that the well-being of your child is my top priority.

The Madison County High School Band Program is a very active, year-round organization. Large amount of decisions is made throughout the year regarding activities, scheduling, fundraisers, etc. It is impossible to cater those decisions for every band parent and their student. ***Please understand that what I decide is made for the best interests of the entire band program.*** I strive to help every student realize their potential, challenge their limitations, and to apply it to all aspects of life outside of the music classroom. This is to foster and nurture a commitment towards the pursuit of excellence.

**If for any reason a parent or student takes issue with any rule, policy, or decision pertaining to the band program, please do not hesitate to contact me via email listed on the cover of this hand book. Email is the most effective way I can respond to any issue you may have for documentation purposes. We can always schedule a phone call or an in-person conference but you must email me first before any further action can be taken!**

I am very open to suggestions and critiques as long as it benefits the band program and its members as a whole. In addition, I take no issue to clarifying any aspect of this program. A resolution regardless of what the situation or circumstance may be can indeed be found. I want this program to one day be a premier one and recognized in the area, state, and region.

The key to a successful band program is community involvement, especially from parents. There are limitations to what I am able to do as an individual band director. However, parent involvement makes the experience for everybody easier and manageable. I would like to extend an invitation to all parents to the parent-led band booster program. This program ensures that every member has what they need in order to succeed. This will vary from operating a concession stand, chaperoning any away games or band competitions, feeding students, providing medical assistance, and so on. The band boosters are there to provide support for everyone involved. To clarify, no one is required to be a member of the band booster program in order to volunteer, chaperone, and to assist during games and competitions. Everyone is more than welcome to be involved in whatever manner they'd like.

Sincerely,

Mr. Heroldany Artiga

## **The Band Program**

The MCHS band program consists of different ensembles listed below that is offered to all students.

### **Vaquero Guard**

All students with band experience from the previous school year (either at MCHS, MCSS, JMPHS, or MCAA) may become a member of the Vaquero Guard marching band. 8<sup>th</sup> graders may join the marching band only if recommended by their band director. This band performs at all MCHS football games, parades, marching competitions, and other scheduled events. There is a band camp that students are required to attend in order to be in the Vaquero Guard. The band camp dates and schedule are provided well in advance. Detailed information regarding marching band rules and attendance policy will be explained at “Vaquero Guard” section (pg.7) of the handbook.

### **Concert Band**

All instrumentalists of the Vaquero Guard continue on in Concert Band during the Spring semester starting in January. Performances includes the Christmas Concert, Florida Bandmasters Association (FBA) Music Performance Assessment (MPA), Spring Concert, and other scheduled events. Required materials for this ensemble are a 3-ring binder, dividers, sheet protectors, and a pencil. Tuners and metronome will be provided for classroom use only. You may download any tuner/metronome app on your smartphone for home use only.

### **Jazz Ensemble**

This ensemble is open to any student in Concert Band that would like to participate in multiple ensembles. Availability is dependent on what instruments are needed at any given time. Some students use the Jazz Ensemble as an opportunity to play a secondary instrument. Performances includes the MCCS Veterans Day Program, Christmas Concert, FBA Jazz MPA, Spring Concert, selected jazz festivals, jazz competitions, community events, and other scheduled events. Required materials for this ensemble are a 3-ring binder, dividers, sheet protectors, and a pencil. Tuners and metronome will be provided for classroom use only. You may download any tuner/metronome app on your smartphone for home use only.

### **Vaquero Color Guard**

The Vaquero Color Guard is an audition-based group. Any student from MCHS or JMPHS is invited to audition for a spot in the Color Guard. This group continues to be active even after marching band season is over. Performances includes the Christmas Concert, FBA Guard MPA,

Spring Concert, Winter Guard Competitions, and other scheduled events. For more information about Color Guard, please refer to the color guard section (pg.12) of this handbook.

### **Instrumental Techniques**

This class is designed for any student from MCHS or JMPHS that would like to learn an instrument as a beginner or current band students that would like to learn a secondary instrument. This class will focus on the basic fundamentals of music and mastering an instrument. First time band students that takes this class may be included in most band events such as playing in the stands at selected home football games and concerts. After completing a year of Instrumental Techniques, the student wanting to continue band will be signed up for the band class the following school year. While the school does own instruments, smaller instruments such as flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, and Trumpet may need to be purchased or rented out from a music vendor. Approved music vendors will be listed towards the end of the handbook. The school will provide instruments or students seeking to learn the following instruments, Oboe, Bassoon, Baritone Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone, Trombone, Baritone, Tuba, Keyboard Percussion, and Battery Percussion.

### **Solo and Ensemble**

All Concert Band and Color Guard members are encouraged to perform either a solo or an ensemble piece for the FBA District 3 Solo & Ensemble. All leadership students are required to perform a Solo. This will range from an instrumental solo, a rifle/baton solo, chamber pieces (brass choir, woodwind choir, jazz combo, percussion ensemble) and so on. Solo or chamber ensemble pieces will be handed out to students in September. Students are responsible for preparing their selected piece. A screening process will be held prior to the registration of the event. Student participation is dependent on the readiness of their selection based on discretion of the band director or instructor during the screening process. Performances include the FBA District 3 Solo & Ensemble, S&E Recital, and other scheduled events.

It is recommended that a student does not select a piece above a **grade level 3** unless they are taking private lessons or their skill level suggests otherwise.

Students may provide their own pianist/accompanist contingent on band director/instructor approval. Otherwise one will be provided. The student is responsible for the costs they sign up and back out at the last minute (registration and piano accompanist.)

## Other outside of school Performing Opportunities

Students are encouraged to explore more performing opportunities such as honor bands, summer music camp, solo competitions, or summer music conferences. In most cases, students are required to audition or to pay an entry fee in order to participate in any honor band, summer music camps or music conferences.

*See the director for more information on any of the following events:*

### **Big Bend All-District Band**

This honor band is a large concert band consisting of students from other schools within the FBA 3<sup>rd</sup> District. They rehearse for two to three days to prepare for a public concert. Students that would wish to be in consideration to participate in the District Honor Band are required to audition. Acceptance into the honor band offers a world class musical instruction in an educational and recreational setting. All section leaders are required to audition for this honor band

### **Florida Music Educators Association All-State Band**

This honor band is a large concert band consisting of students from all around the state of Florida. Similar to District Honor Band, they too rehearse for three days to prepare for a public concert at the annual Florida Music Educators Association Conference held at the Tampa Convention Center. Students are required to audition for acceptance into the All-State band. Acceptance to this honor band opens many doors to music scholarships around the country. Any audition information can be found in the FBA website (<https://fba.flmusiced.org/>). Students must go through a pre-screening before being allowed to audition for this honor band.

### **Summer Music Camps**

Summer music camps is a great opportunity for students to receive an enriching musical experience. Most camps have different concentrations such as classical, jazz, marching, leadership, color guard, conducting, music engineering, and music business. Music camps are hosted by universities around the country and the world. Most music camps require payment in order to participate. Here are a few universities around our area that offers a summer music camp. Please see the band director for more summer opportunities beyond what is listed.

- Florida State University (<https://music.fsu.edu/summermusiccamps>)
- Florida A&M University (<https://www.famubands.com/summer-band-camp>)
- University of Central Florida (<https://performingarts.cah.ucf.edu/camps/>)
- University of Florida (<https://www.ufbandcamps.com/>)
- Troy University (<https://www.troy.edu/academics/colleges-schools/college-communication-fine-arts/departments/john-m-long-school-music/sound-of-the-south/summer-study.html>)

## MCHS Vaquero Guard

The MCHS Vaquero Guard is the heart and soul of the entire MCHS band program. Being a part of this extracurricular activity will require many hours of hard work, sweat and determination. Every student must be ready to work as a team. Good teamwork will lead to the desired performances and results at any marching band competition and MPA events. In order to be successful in the Vaquero Guard, there are a set of rules and guideline every student must follow.

### Attendance Policy for Marching Band

Students are required to attend all rehearsals and performances, none of which are optional. Rehearsals begin at a specific time. If you arrive late to practice, consequences such as pushups or laps around the field will be assigned. During practice, students will be allowed to go to the bathroom only during water breaks. If for any reason students need to go to the bathroom before any water breaks, it must be an emergency. **For every 3 unexcused tardy to an after-school rehearsal or call time for events, that will equal one unexcused absence and will result in the student sitting out for one game or event.** Example, if you are walking on the field at 3:30, then you are late. Please arrive to the practice field with enough time to spare (3:28) to find your spot on the fundamental block. Attendance will be taken by the director right at 3:30.

If any student is absent from any Tuesday after-school rehearsal and the absence is not excused, this will lead to the students being asked to sit out for halftime and to help clean the band field or the band room to make up the time missed at the following rehearsal. *If a student is absent from any Thursday rehearsal and the absence is not excused, the student will be asked to sit out for the entire game (home or away).* **If any student has a total of 5 unexcused absences from after-school rehearsals, the student's spot on the field will be taken away as well as the privilege to attend and perform at any football game, Marching MPA and band competitions.**

**If any student misses a band competition/festival or Marching MPA without prior approval from the band director, the student's spot on the field will be taken away as well as the privilege to attend and perform on the field or in the stands at any football game.**

*Any student that is considering running for any leadership position in the Vaquero Guard please know that attendance will be a significant factor in selecting leaders.*

**The director understands that emergencies happen. In the case of an emergency, a note within 24 hours after the emergency must be given to the director. The band director has the right to interpret/determine the legitimacy of the excuse.**

*Please try your best to schedule any appointments around band practices. Generally, practices occur on Tuesdays and Thursdays.*

Here is a general list of an absence that may be considered an excused tardy or absence. Please be reminded that a note must be provided in order for the tardy or absence to be excused.

- Doctor's appointment (please bring a doctor's note)
- Medical emergency
- Family Emergency (Parent or Guardian must provide a note)
- Funeral of a family member
- Illness (note must be provided)
- Pre-planned family event or vacation (Parent or Guardian must provide a notice at least 3 months before the scheduled event for the absence to be excused)
- Any school-sanctioned event (Beta Club, FFA, Robotics, MCHS athletics etc....)
- College Visits/ SAT Testing (student must be given a note from the admissions office confirming their visit or bring a copy of their SAT testing ticket)
- Making up an assignment or exam for a class (teacher must give you a note as a confirmation)

Here is a list of absences that will not be excused. No exceptions!

- Lack of transportation (activity buses are available for students)
- Birthday
- Hair appointment
- Nail Salon appointment
- Any non-band related concerts, music festivals, collegiate events (ex. Taylor Swift, Midtown Music Festival, college sport games, collegiate homecoming events) etc...
- Last minute non-emergency family plans (schedule is provided well in advance)
- Work (schedule is provided well in advance so please provide a copy to your manager as soon as you receive the band calendar)

When traveling to an event, the buses will leave at the scheduled time - no sooner, no later. If you miss the bus, you are not able to attend the event. This will count as an unexcused absence unless other previous arrangements have been made.

## **Marching Band Uniforms**

MCHS band students will use three different uniforms for marching band in order to preserve the integrity of our traditional uniforms. The three uniforms are as follows:

- Summer Uniform
  - Band T-shirt, black athletic shorts, athletic closed-toe shoes, band draw string bag
- Traditional Marching Band Uniform
  - Coat, Bibbers, Black Marching Shoes, Long Black Socks, Band Cowboy hat, band draw string bag

- Alternate Marching Band Uniform
  - Band Windbreaker, band sweatpants, closed-toe athletic shoes, Long Black Socks, band draw string bag

The parts of the uniform that may be purchased separately are the black marching shoes, black athletic shorts and black socks. Bibbers are provided but as a first come-first serve basis. It is highly recommended to purchase your own pair.

All students are to remain in the appropriate uniform or attire during these events unless instructed otherwise. Students must wear the official band t-shirt under the uniform coat. If a student does not have the official band t-shirt, the uniform coat must stay on. Bibber straps **must** stay on the shoulders and zippers must remain zipped. Any student who cannot adhere to this rule will be required to remain in full uniform for the duration of the event. Caution must be considered to prevent any stains and damages. Students will be responsible for the cost of repair or cleaning of their uniform if it exceeds beyond normal wear and tear.

#### **Proper care and Maintenance of Marching Band Uniform**

Each uniform consists of a coat, bag, gauntlets (opt.), and hanger. Each band member is responsible for the components of their uniform. **Extra components will not be issued.** Coats and hangers will be given prior to each performance and collected at the end of each use.

Always return your uniform to the assigned spot on the uniform rack on the correct hanger after each performance. This only requires a minute or less of effort to do so.

Always alert the Uniform Officer or a chaperone of any problems or stains on your uniform so they can be repaired and cleaned before the next use. **If a student is found responsible for any damages to their assigned uniform, the student will be responsible to pay for a replacement.**

Do not wear coats, jeans or other outer garments under your uniform unless told otherwise.

Female students should only wear ball or small hoop earrings in uniform. Male students should not wear any earrings at all. Any hair that is longer than shoulder length must go in a ponytail or be braided. Any large or distracting jewelry must be removed.

#### **After-School Practice Dress Code**

Students must wear appropriate attire while also following the MCHS Dress code policy for outdoor after-school practices. This is to ensure the maximum comfort and safety of the students. Footwear such as crocs, slides, sandals, hey dudes, and any open toed shoe is not allowed to be worn during outdoor rehearsals. If any student is not wearing the correct footwear, the student will be asked to wear the correct footwear but if no change is made, you will be dismissed from rehearsal and marked absent for the rehearsal. Same applies to any violation of the MCHS dress code (tank tops, spaghetti straps, non-athletic shorts). Hats and sunglasses are permitted.

## Rules and Expectations before and during football games

**Before football games, you are only allowed to remain in the band room. You may use the restroom that's near the band room. If you are found roaming, running or horse playing in the hallways by a custodian or any MCHS personnel, you will be asked to go home and you will not be allowed to stay after school before call time for home games until further notice.**

All students are to remain in the appropriate uniform or attire during these events unless instructed otherwise. Students must wear the official band t-shirt under the uniform coat. If a student does not have the official band t-shirt, the uniform coat must stay on. Bibber straps **must** stay on the shoulders and zippers must remain zipped. Any student who cannot adhere to this rule will be required to remain in full uniform for the duration of the event. Caution must be considered to prevent any stains and damages. Students will be responsible for the cost of repair or cleaning of their uniform if it exceeds beyond normal wear and tear.

During football games, when we are on offense, we only play when the team scores a touchdown or a field goal. The drum line can perform a small cadence every time the football team gets a first down. You are not allowed to "doodle" on your instrument while we are on offense. After multiple warnings, you will be asked to put your instrument up and sit out. On offense, you may sit down or get water. When we are on defense, everyone will stand up and be prepared to play at any given time. Only play when the director or a staff member calls out the tune and the drum major counts it off.

### **No obscenities shouted or cheered from the stands.**

There shall be no food or drinks in the stands 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, & 4<sup>th</sup> quarters other than water provided by the boosters. During the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter break, all care should be taken to prevent any spills on the uniforms, instruments, and equipment. ***Any abuse of this policy could result in loss of 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter privileges for individuals or the group as a whole.***

We will have a 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter break unless told otherwise. Remember, at home games, you are allowed to use the bathroom. If you ordered food before the game, please grab your food and head straight back to the stands. At away games, you are only allowed to use the bathroom. We will provide snacks and drinks for you all during 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter. You may bring food with you in your bag or have your parent order food for you but otherwise no one is allowed to go to the concession stand. Any abuse to this privilege will result in taking away the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter break.

During football games, all students are to stay within their assigned sections to minimize the risk of broken horns via foot traffic. Band members are not to leave the band section of the stands without permission from a director or band staff member. Band staff members will allow students to go to the restroom: a few at the time on a need's basis. Remember that when you are allowed to go, go straight there and back, as others will be waiting. If you are not allowed to go, please be patient and wait your turn as everyone can't go at the same time. If you do not go straight there and back, it could result in the loss of privileges.

## MCHS Vaquero Drum Line and Front Ensemble

The Drum Line and Front Ensemble is an audition-based ensemble open to all MCHS Band students and rising 9<sup>th</sup> grade band students from MCAA, MCCS, and other schools. Audition materials are determined by the drum line instructor and the band director. For more information about joining the drum line, please contact the director. **Not every percussionist is guaranteed a spot on the field battery percussion line (snare, tenors, bass drum).**

**Students are expected to put all instrument back in their cases and stored properly in their designated area after every use.** During class or in the stands, the drums are to be put on the drum stand **at all times!** Violating this rule will lead to consequences set by the percussion instructor or band director. No drum should be placed on the ground unless instructed otherwise. Please don't play any drum too hard, we want the drum heads to last for the entire season.

Prior to every football game, drum line students will be allowed to set up in the stadium before the rest of the band does (home or away). They will set the drum stands up on the bleachers before taking the drums out of their cases to carry them into the bleacher on their carriers. After every game, drum line members are expected to put their drum back in the cases and return to retrieve the drum stands from the bleachers. They may coordinate with the equipment manager to retrieve the drum stands after each game to speed up the packing up process. This also applies to front ensemble.

Only drum line members and front ensemble members are allowed to touch, carry, and perform on the marching and keyboard percussion instruments. This also applies to any concert percussion instruments. We want these instruments to last for the many years to come. Please use the correct mallet or drumsticks for the assigned instrument! Students will be provided with two pairs of sticks and mallets but they are responsible for their condition and integrity. If a student loses their mallet or drum sticks at any point throughout the school year, the student will be responsible to provide their own pair.

Students are expected to keep the percussion room **clean and organized at all times.** Eating, socializing, changing wardrobe, and granting entry to non-drumline and non-front ensemble students is prohibited. The sole purpose of the percussion room is to properly store all percussion equipment. The director will lock the percussion room to avoid any possibility of theft, damages, and other undesired situations. The room may be subject to inspection by the band director and percussion instructor. Please ask the director or percussion instructor to unlock the percussion room.

**Students in the drum line may arrange or compose a new cadence but they will not be allowed to perform it at any game unless permission/approval of the percussion instructor is granted.** Student-created cadences are subject to rejection and re-arrangement at the discretion of the drum line instructor and/or band director.

## MCHS Vaquero Color Guard

The Color Guard is an audition-based ensemble that is open to all MCHS and JMPHS students as well as incoming 9<sup>th</sup> graders from MCAA and MCCS. Audition materials are selected at the discretion of the color guard instructor and the band director. For more information about joining the Color Guard, please contact the director of bands.

Color Guard students are responsible for properly placing flags on and off the field before and after every performance. Color Guard will line up at the front of the marching for every game and competition in order to accelerate the setting up process. The instructor will make sure that every color guard member knows where to go prior to setting up. Football fields may differ from an athletics track surrounding the field, a reduced-size sideline, or a large sideline space. All members are responsible for their assigned flags. If a member loses a flag, they will be responsible to purchase a replacement flag and silk.

In the stands, the color guard will be provided with a set of pom-poms that is different from what the MCHS cheerleaders use. Color Guard members are responsible for the maintenance of their poms. If a student loses any poms, they will be responsible for acquiring another set before their next performance.

**All routines on the field and in the stands are choreographed by the color guard instructor. Students are not allowed to choreograph any dance on the field or in the stands without the authorization of the color guard instructor.**

Color Guard members are responsible for keeping their designated room, the color guard room, **clean and organized** throughout the entire school year. Eating, socializing, and wardrobe changes is not allowed in the color guard room. No member should allow other students to enter the color guard room. The sole purpose of this room is to properly store all equipment being used throughout the year. The director and the instructor have the right to lock and inspect the room at any given time.

Please refrain from allowing non-color guard members from using any color guard equipment. The equipment is only assigned to color guard members. This will help prevent anyone getting hurt or the equipment getting damaged. Consequences are at the discretion of the color guard instructor and/or band director.

## Instrument Purchase

When purchasing a musical instrument, it is good to look at a budget, but you also want to ensure that you are purchasing a quality instrument. Many of you realize that Amazon also sells instruments that seems like a “good price” compared to other brands but please know that the quality of any Amazon branded instrument such as “Mendini” or “Glory” is very low and may be a more expensive investment in the long run. For repairs on any Amazon branded instrument, many music repair shops will more than likely refuse service or have a really hard time repairing those instruments due to the lack of appropriate parts. The cost of repairing an Amazon branded instrument outweighs the price of a new instrument. Amazon branded instrument are all made with low quality materials therefore affecting the durability and playing quality of the instrument. This also applies to instruments sold at Wal-Mart, Target, or any other major department stores during the Christmas holidays.

Below will be a list of instruments and the recommended brand for each price point. **Note that a quality instrument may be purchased used for a great price through Facebook Marketplace.** For clarinet and saxophones, there is also a list of recommended brand and size of reeds that may be purchased from Amazon or in any music vendor listed in the previous section of this handbook. For brands not listed below, feel free to contact Mr. Artiga for recommendations on instruments.

- Flute
  - Yamaha, Gemeinhardt, Jupiter, Selmer
- Clarinet
  - Yamaha, Selmer, Buffet Crampton, LeBlanc
  - Recommended reed brand
    - Vandoren size 3 or 3.5
    - Royal by D’Adarrio size 3 or 3.5
- Saxophones
  - Yamaha, Selmer, P.Mauriat, Jupiter, Cannonball
  - Recommended reed brand
    - Vandoren size 3 or 3.5
    - Royal by D’Adarrio size 3 or 3.5
- French Horn
  - Conn, Holton, Yamaha, Jupiter
- Trumpet
  - Bach, Yamaha, Jupiter, Carol Brass, S.E Shires, King
- Trombone (f attachment feature is highly recommended)
  - Bach, Yamaha, Getzen, King, Conn, Eastman Winds
- Euphonium
  - Yamaha, Jupiter, King, Blessing
- Tuba
  - Miraphone, Jupiter, Yamaha, Besson
- Percussion Practice Kits
  - Vic Firth, Pearl, Yamaha

## Music Vendors

Purchasing and owning an instrument is a great investment towards your musical adventure but it is important to know where to shop at just like when you go grocery shopping. Below is a list of music vendors that serves all Madison County Schools and will ensure to fulfill your musical needs such as new and used instruments, instrument repairs, instrument maintenance, reeds, accessories and method books.

- Music Masters (Instrument pickup and delivery to and from MCHS is provided)
  - 1114 N Monroe St, Tallahassee, FL 32303 / Phone #: (850) 224 6158
- O'Malley Music (Instrument pickup and delivery to and from MCHS is provided)
  - 903 S Madison Ave, Douglas, GA 31533 / Phone # (912) 381 6047
- Kilgard Instrument Repair
  - 1422 E Park Ave, Valdosta, GA 31602 / Phone # (229) 242 3444
- Playground Music Center
  - 3360 Capital Circle NE, Tallahassee, FL 32308 / Phone # (850) 320 6463

You may also use vendors online. Here is a list of approved online music vendors.

- Woodwind Brasswind
  - [www.wwbw.com](http://www.wwbw.com)
- Steve Weiss Music (percussion)
  - [www.steveweissmusic.com](http://www.steveweissmusic.com)
- Sweetwater Music
  - [www.sweetwatermusic.com](http://www.sweetwatermusic.com)
- West Music
  - [www.westmusic.com](http://www.westmusic.com)
- Band Shoppe (Color Guard)
  - <https://www.bandshoppe.com/>

## Travel Policy

All students must travel on the bus to every event. Emergencies that require alternate transportation must be approved **in advanced by an administrator.**

For home games and away game trips, all members will meet in the MCHS Band Room and return to the MCHS Band Room. We do not pick up or delivery students except in extreme circumstances approved by a district administrator.

A student may be released **ONLY** to a parent or legal guardian at the **conclusion** of an event with the notification and approval of the director. The parent or guardian must sign out the student on the official sign out form. **Any other arrangements must be approved at least 24 hours in advance by the director and the sign-out agreement must be filled out and signed.**

Students are expected to behave appropriately when traveling on the bus. Shouting from, hanging objects, and throwing objects from the bus windows is prohibited. While the bus is in motion, walking and running in the bus is prohibited. Students are expected to maintain a low noise level. If the noise does exceed a certain degree, the bus driver or adult chaperone will address the noise and student seating will be re-arranged. Any further issues will be addressed by the band director. Please remember, the bus driver is in charge while traveling. We want to keep any distractions to the bus driver at a minimum to ensure our safety while moving.

**All students are expected to be completely quiet while the bus is at any railroad stops as per state law requires. Disciplinary action will occur for any student who fails to comply.**

**No Bluetooth speakers are allowed to be played on the bus.** Phones, MP3 player, games etc. are permitted **with headphones only**. If any device is capable of reaching at least 1 decibel, then headphones, ear buds, and so on is required.

During overnight band trips, the director will set curfew in advance. Everyone is expected to be in their own room by curfew. During the room check, every door will be secured with masking tape. If any door opens slightly, the tape will tear. Any tape torn before 7:00 am the next morning will result in ALL students in the room being sent home **AT THE PARENT'S EXPENSE.** This rule protects not only you, but everyone in attendance.

All applicable school rules are in effect during any rehearsal or event, including rules regarding the use of tobacco, alcohol, etc. Any student violating these rules will be dealt with accordingly.

### **ALCOHOL/SMOKING/VAPING/DRUGS:**

***The sale, distribution, possession, or use of illegal drugs, alcohol, vape pens, or tobacco in any form, before, during, or after school or any band related function will result in immediate expulsion from the band. The principal, school resource officer and parents will be notified, and the offending student will be subject to any punishment as dictated by law enforcement and the MCSD Student Code of Conduct.***

## Rules and Expectations

The single most important expectation is that each student must show pride in everything that they do related to this band program. All students must show discipline and respect when in public. Remember, we all strive for a **positive public image!**

**Cell phones and/or any other electronic devices during band class, rehearsal, and performances must be put away unless told otherwise— there are no excuses. If visible, students will receive a warning. The band director and any other teacher or instructor has the right to confiscate the cellphone/electronic device after the first warning. If the student refuses to give up their cell phone, the student will be given a referral during school hours or dismissal from an after-school rehearsal. Students will have an opportunity to communicate to their parent/legal guardian before and after such events. Devices may be returned at the conclusion of the event. The exception to this rule is in the event of an emergency, whether it be immediate or personal. Please communicate to the band director if this occurs.**

Any item brought with you to a practice or performance (phone, mp3 player, game, money, etc.) is **at your own risk**. Neither the school nor the band program can be responsible for loss, theft, or damage.

**PDA (Public Display of Affection) is prohibited at all times.**

Please be mindful of what is being said during any public function. Many people do not appreciate when foul language is being spoken out loud and it leaves a bad image for you, your family and the band. If caught, the director, band staff member or adult chaperones will ask you to stop using any foul language and assigned push-ups. After multiple warnings, a conference with the student, director and parent will be scheduled and you will be suspended from attending any after-school and off campus activities until further notice.

Remember that everywhere you go and everything that you do represents Madison County High School (either positively or negatively). Make a goal to stay out of trouble and not in it. Remember, we are here to learn music and have fun. Please don't ruin another everyone's band experience by being disruptive. You aren't only hurting yourself, but also the group as a whole. **Remember, we all do not succeed unless we all succeed! Either we win together or loose together.**

Students are to show respect for all teachers, administrators, instructors, chaperones, bus drivers, other students, and the program as a whole. **NO DISRESPECT WILL BE TOLERATED.**

Lastly, have fun in band!!! Band is designed to maximize the amount of enjoyment when working when others, rehearsing and performing! Band is a family and everyone is here to achieve the same goal, to make band fun and successful! The best memories are created when you're having fun doing something that you enjoy! *"Band is spelled with F.U.N"* – Mr. David Moorer.

## **Bullying, Sexual Harassment, and Discrimination**

**Bullying, sexual harassment and any form of discrimination will not be tolerated. If found guilty of the wrongdoing, the student will immediately be removed from the MCHS band program. Disciplinary action will also be executed according the Madison County School District Code of Conduct Handbook and the administration at Madison County High School.**

### **BULLYING AND OTHER FORMS OF AGGRESSION**

*" The MCSD is committed to providing a safe, positive, productive, and nurturing educational environment for all of its students. The MCSD encourages the promotion of positive interpersonal relations among all members of the school community. Aggressive behavior, bullying, harassment, and similar acts toward a student, whether by other students, staff, or third parties is strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated. This prohibition includes physical, verbal (oral or written), electronically transmitted (cyber or high-tech), and psychological abuse. The MCSD will not tolerate any gestures, comments, threats, or actions, which cause or threaten to cause bodily harm or personal degradation. This policy applies to all activities in the District, including activities on school property or while enroute to or from school sponsored activities and those occurring off school property if the student or employee is at any school sponsored, school approved, or school related activity or function, such as field trips or athletic events where students are under the school's control, or where an employee is engaged in school business. "Bullying", including cyberbullying, is defined as and means systematically and chronically inflicting physical hurt or psychological distress on one or more students and may involve:*

1. *Teasing*
2. *Social exclusion*
3. *Threat*
4. *Intimidation*
5. *Stalking*
6. *Physical violence*
7. *Theft*
8. *Sexual, religious, or racial harassment*
9. *Public or private humiliation*
10. *Destruction of property*

*[S 1006.147, Florida Statutes] [MCSD Policy No. 5.101]"*

Madison County School District Code of Student Conduct pg.11

## Full 2024-25 Schedule

*Dates are subject to change and will be updated if a change does happen. Students are required to attend all events unless told otherwise*

**July 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>: Vaquero Guard Leadership Camp** *(required for band leaders)*

**July 22<sup>nd</sup> – Rookie Camp** *(For all first-year high school band members/invited 8<sup>th</sup> graders)*

**July 23<sup>rd</sup> to August 2<sup>nd</sup> – Vaquero Guard Band Camp** (Mon, Tue & Thu 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, Wed & Fri 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, weekends off)

**Tuesday, August 13<sup>th</sup> – First after-school rehearsal for all members**

***Please note that all after-school rehearsals will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30 to 5:30 pm until October 24<sup>th</sup>. From there on, practices will be on Thursdays from 3:30 to 4:30 pm***

Friday, August 16<sup>th</sup> – Home Game vs Wakulla HS (KO Classic) 7:30 pm (Call Time: 6:00 pm)

Friday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> – Away Game @ Deland HS (Deland, FL) 7:30 pm

Friday, August 30<sup>th</sup> – Home Game vs Lincoln HS, 7:30 pm (Call time: 6:00 pm)

Friday, September 6<sup>th</sup> – Away Game @ Suwannee HS (Live Oak, FL) 7:30 pm

Friday, September 13<sup>th</sup> – Away Game @ Columbia HS (Lake City, FL) 7:30 pm

Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup> – FMEA All State Auditions, Leon High School, Tallahassee, FL *(Not required for all members, must be prescreened before auditioning)*

Friday, September 20<sup>th</sup> - Homecoming Parade, Call time 9:00 @ Lanier Field

Friday, September 20<sup>th</sup> – Home Game vs Bay HS (Homecoming), 7:30 pm (Call time: 5:30 pm)

Friday, September 27<sup>th</sup> – OPEN WEEK, NO GAME

Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup> – VSU Band Day, Bazemore-Hyder Stadium, Valdosta, GA

Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup> – Away Game @ Pace HS (Pensacola, FL) 7:30 pm Central Time

Friday, October 11<sup>th</sup> – Home Game vs Raines HS (Full Show reveal), 7:30 pm (Call time: 5:30 pm)

**Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup>– Daleville Invitational Band Classic, Daleville HS, Daleville, AL**

Friday, October 18<sup>th</sup> – Away Game @ Florida High (Tallahassee, FL) 7:30 pm

**Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup> – Battle on the Border Marching Band Competition, Martin Stadium, Valdosta, GA**

Friday, October 25<sup>th</sup> – Home Game vs Apopka HS (Middle School Night), 7:30 pm (Call time 5:30)

**Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup> – FBA District 3 Marching MPA, Gene Cox Stadium, Tallahassee, FL**

Friday, November 1<sup>st</sup> – Home Game vs Lake Mineola (Senior Night) 7:30 pm, (Call time 5:30 pm)

Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> – Big Bend District Honor Band Auditions, Lincoln High School, Tallahassee, FL *(not required for all members, must go through prescreening before auditions)*

Friday, November 8<sup>th</sup> – FHSAA District Football Quarterfinal Round, Time and Location TBD

November 14<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> – Big Bend All District Jazz Band, Godby HS, Tallahassee, FL

Friday, November 15<sup>th</sup> – FHSAA District Football Semifinal Round, Time and Location TBD

Friday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> – FHSAA District Football Final Round, Time and Location TBD

Friday, November 29<sup>th</sup> – FHSAA State Football Semifinal Round, Time and Location TBD *(During Thanksgiving break, voluntary)*

**Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup> – FHSAA Class 1R State Championship Game, H.G Morse Stadium, The Villages, FL**

Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> – Light Up Madison Christmas Parade, 6:00 pm (Call time: 4:30)

**Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Concert, 6:00 pm, MCHS Gym, Madison, FL**

Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup> – Heart of Greenville Christmas Parade, 10:00 am (Call time: 9:00 am)

January 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> – FMEA All State Band / FMEA HS Honor Band / FMEA Conference, Tampa, FL

January 30<sup>th</sup> to February 1<sup>st</sup> – Big Bend All District Honor Band, Chiles HS, Tallahassee, FL

***Please note that in preparation of Concert MPA, we will have after-school rehearsals every Thursday except for Feb 13<sup>th</sup> from 3:15 to 5:00 pm***

Thursday, February 13<sup>th</sup> – Jazz MPA, Rickards HS, Tallahassee, FL *(jazz band only)*

Saturday, February 15<sup>th</sup> – Solo & Ensemble / Guard MPA, Montford MS, Tallahassee, FL

*(required for all leaders and Color Guard members)*

**Friday, February 21<sup>st</sup> – Pre-MPA, Valdosta State University, Valdosta, GA**

**Saturday, March 1<sup>st</sup> – Concert MPA, Leon HS, Tallahassee, FL**

Date TBA – State Solo & Ensemble / State Guard MPA / State Jazz MPA, Location TBA *(Students must score a rating of “Superior” on a grade 5 or above in order to qualify for the State S&E MPA)*

Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup> – Down Home Days Parade

**Date TBA – Spring Concert, Time TBA**

# Student & Parent Acknowledgement Agreement

This form is documentation indicating that you, the parent/legal guardian, have reviewed the band handbook with your band student. In doing so, the rules and regulations are understood and will be followed. Your band student is aware of the consequences/penalties that may be enforced if they do not fulfill their obligations to the MCHS Band Programs for the 2024/25 school year.

School Year: **July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025**

Student Full Name (First/Last) \_\_\_\_\_

Band Student T-Shirt Size: \_\_\_\_\_ Student's Grade Level (9 - 12) \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, and Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Relation to Student \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Phone Number(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Marching Season Instrument/Group \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Other Emergency Contact Name(s) and Number(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Full Name (First/Last) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## Media Release Form

School Year: July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

I, \_\_\_\_\_ understand and agree that photographs, audio recordings, and video footage may be taken of me during my participation in activities related to the MCHS Vaquero Guard.

I grant permission to Madison County High School Vaquero Guard and its representatives to use these photographs, audio recordings, and video footage for the following purposes:

Promotional materials (printed and digital)

Social media posts and website content

Newsletters and other publications

I understand that these materials may be used for an indefinite period and that there will be no compensation for their use.

### Opt-Out Option

I understand that I have the option to opt-out of the use of my photographs, audio recordings, and video footage for promotional purposes related to the MCHS Vaquero Guard. By checking this box/indicating below, I do not grant permission for the use of my media in the aforementioned ways.

[  ] I opt-out and do not grant permission for the use of my media.

Print Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## MEDICAL RELEASE FORM

This medical form is to better help MCHS get assistance for your child in the event of an emergency, illness, or injury. This form will be carried to all events. Please take the time to fill out this form carefully and accurately. We cannot provide an accurate care in case of emergencies if vital information is left out.

School Year: July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

Student's Name (First/Last): \_\_\_\_\_

Please list any know medical conditions: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

My child is allergic to the following (Please list any and all allergies): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

My Child is currently taking the following medications on a regular basis: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Special Instructions (If needed): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Health Insurance Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Policy Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Group Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Names on the Policy: \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby authorize the director or an adult chaperone to seek reasonable help for my child in the event of an accident or illness.

Parent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# MCHS Student Instrument/Equipment Agreement

**July 1<sup>st</sup> 2024 – June 30<sup>th</sup> 2025**

It is the responsibility of the student to maintain the well-being of their MCHS instrument or equipment. Occasionally, some instruments will need repairs due to regular use. In this case, MCHS will cover the costs. However, if an instrument needs repairs due to the student's negligence, the student and their family will be held liable for the costs as acknowledged by this MCHS Instrument Agreement Form.

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Student Name (First/Last): \_\_\_\_\_

Instrument: \_\_\_\_\_ Brand: \_\_\_\_\_

Instrument Serial Number: \_\_\_\_\_

I understand it is my responsibility to maintain the integrity of my MCHS instrument and/or equipment. I also agree that payment for instrument repairs resulting from mistreatment of the instrument will be my responsibility. Repairs required as a result of normal wear and tear or accidents not caused by carelessness will be covered by MCHS. I also agree that if the instrument gets lost or stolen, you will be responsible for replacing the stolen or lost instrument. Signing this form is an acknowledgement of this agreement.

Parent/Guardian Name (First/Last): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_