

# MEHS Band Policy

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## 1. Attendance Policy

“If you’re early, you’re on time.  
If you’re on time, you’re late.  
If you’re late, ***we fail.***”

- a. The student must come to class early so that by the tardy bell, the student is ready to play. Being ready means that the student’s instrument and music are set up, **and they are already warmed up.**
- b. There will be a maximum of 3 unexcused tardies per student per quarter. Exceeding this will drop the student’s overall grade by one whole letter.
- c. A student with 3 tardies will be marked to have 1 absence. A student with 6 absences will lose 1 credit for the class. This is the general attendance policy for Mt. Eden High School.
- d. To get a tardy/absence excused, the student must have his or her tardy/absence excused through Mt. Eden’s Attendance Office.
- e. No student may have an unexcused absence or tardy from rehearsal within a minimum of 2 weeks before a performance. Should a student have any unexcused absences or tardies, he or she may not be allowed to **play** in the upcoming performance. He or she is still required to come to the performance and help serve food, set tables and chairs, etc.
- f. Missing any performance will result in the drop of a whole letter grade.

Issue	Consequence
3 unexcused tardies	- Drops overall grade by 1 letter - 3 tardies = marked as 1 absence
6 absences	- Lose 1 class credit
Any unexcused tardy/absence 2 weeks prior to a performance	- Student may not play in the performance. However, s/he is still required to come & help.
1 Unexcused absence from a performance	- Drops overall grade by 1 letter

## 2. Performance Attire – Band “Uniform”

*The Mount Eden High School Band cannot legally require a student to have band attire if the band cannot financially provide the attire for the student. However, **bountiful** fundraising opportunities will be provided to defer, if not alleviate the cost of attire.*

- a. The MEHS band will have general performance attire. Every band member must have the following clothing items before any performances. There will be an attire check early in the year, and each student will receive a grade for having a complete uniform. Also, we will always have an attire check before we leave on trips to festivals, etc. **IF A STUDENT DOESN'T HAVE THE PROPER ATTIRE THE WEEK BEFORE A PERFORMANCE, POINTS WILL BE TAKEN AWAY FROM THE STUDENT'S GRADE. ALSO, A STUDENT MAY NOT PERFORM IF HIS OR HER "UNIFORM" DOESN'T MATCH WITH THE REST OF THE BAND.**

The symphonic band's and wind ensemble's general performance attire will consist of:

- i. Closed black DRESS shoes (NOT tennis shoes or flip-flops)
- ii. Black socks/stockings
- iii. Black DRESS PANTS (NOT black jeans, capris, etc.) Girls may wear long black skirts **that reach the ankle.**
- iv. White tuxedo shirt (if student is wearing black pants)\*
  - iv. a. For girls: a white blouse with sleeves. **No translucent clothing!**  
We should not see your underwear.
- v. Black **bowtie** for tuxedo shirts\*
- vi. Cufflinks are optional\*
- vii. Black tuxedo jacket\*
- viii. **Wind ensemble members** will have the blue marching band jackets, frills, gold chain, and yellow cummerbund as part of their uniform.

\*\*\*Orchestra attire will be similar to the symphonic band's attire\*\*\*

As for the jazz band:

- i. Black DRESS shoes
- ii. Black socks/stockings
- iii. Black dress pants (long skirts/dresses optional)
- iv. Black dress shirt
- v. Cufflinks are optional
- vi. Black hats for saxes, Brown hats for trombones, and Blue hats for trumpets
- vii. Matching vests/jackets/attire\*

\*Subject to change by director's discretion

### 2A. Marching Band Uniforms

Marching band members will find their own marching band uniforms. Each student is required to maintain the quality of their marching band uniform throughout the

year – this may entail having it dry-cleaned to remove wrinkles, stains, etc. Students will be charged for lost or damaged uniforms.

### 3. Instrument Policy

*Bountiful fundraising opportunities will be provided to defer, if not alleviate the cost of instruments/repairs if the student cannot pay for instruments/repairs on his or her own.*

**Each student who loans an instrument from Mt. Eden High School is required to fill out a loan agreement form.**

#### a. Instrument Storage

Cubbies/closets will be grouped/labeled according to instrument sections. Each student will receive a cubby to store an instrument and music in. Cubbies are meant to store away instruments during the school day so students don't have to carry their instruments around with them everywhere.

- i. Every cubby must be labeled with the owner's name and cubby number.
- ii. Students must also put their name on their instrument's case and music folder. (For cases – use masking tape and write name using permanent marker).
- iii. Students must take their instruments home 4 days a week (Friday combined with the weekend counts as one day.) *For students who with large instruments, talk to Mr. Cato.*
- iv. Section leaders must come to the band room after school to record who didn't bring their instrument home.

#### b. Damaged instruments

If a student damages any instrument, even if the student doesn't own it or if the student didn't loan it, the student is required to pay for any necessary repairs.

### 4. Preparation for Rehearsals and Performances

- a. Students must have the “normal” accessories necessary for their particular instrument's maintenance.  
This may include spare reeds for reed instruments, cork grease, slide/rotary oil, spare rags for brass players who have spit valves, etc.
- b. If assigned the same parts, students **may** share music during rehearsals and performances. **HOWEVER:** every student must have his or her own music readily available during every rehearsal or performance.
- c. During performances: if a student's instrument isn't in working order, or if they don't have their music, they cannot perform.
- d. During rehearsals: no music or no instrument – student will not receive credit for that day in class.

- e. FOCUS! No side conversations during rehearsals and performances.

## **5. General Band Room Rules – Common Courtesy, Expectations, & Responsibilities**

Respect the band room.

- a. Do NOT litter (especially in the sink, library, and practice rooms). Throw trash away in the TRASH CAN.
- a. No throwing anything
- b. No running
- c. No eating – we have a huge problem with ANTS and, more recently, RATS because of food.
- d. You may only drink water. Juices & sodas (or any sugars) corrode instruments.
- e. Clean up after yourself
- f. No gum/candy
- g. No spitting on the floor (**for those with spit valves: it is required that you have a spare rag to catch/wipe your spit from the floor.**)
- h. No reeds should be found anywhere. Any reeds found in any section, including in sections that don't even use reeds, will result in a penalty for that section.
- i. Learn your part.
- j. Have fun.

## **6. Parent/Guardian Meetings**

- a. Parent(s)/guardian(s) must come to the first meeting. If they cannot, they can meet Mr. Cato on their own time (call for an appointment.)
- b. The band will have a total of 3 or 4 parent meetings for the whole year. Parent(s)/guardian(s) of students must come to at least 2 of those meetings.
- c. There will be parent “booster club” meetings, where volunteer parents will help collaborate to plan out preparations for performances, trips, fundraising activities, etc.

## **7. Fundraisers & Band Members' Band Accounts**

After signing this contract, every student is expected to **pay up for** and participate in every performance held by the MEHS band.

The MEHS band will have fundraisers throughout the year to help defer, if not alleviate, any financial difficulties that may affect a student's participation in every performance. Students can raise money by fulfilling minimum requirements. For example: Usually, as far as candy sale fundraisers go, students are expected to sell a minimum number of boxes of candy.

All money made from fundraisers by every individual student goes directly to the student's individual BAND account. Money that a student earns normally goes toward paying for his/her lodging and bus seat during band trips. This money could also be used

to pay for band attire and instrumental needs. Extra money will remain stored in his/her band account, even if he/she doesn't use all of it during a single year.

When the student graduates, his or her left-over fundraised money in his or her band account will remain with the band. However, if the student has left-over money that was deposited as cash or check and not through a fundraiser, he can get his money back.

**The band does have deadlines for minimum requirements to meet when it comes to paying deposits/installments for tours/festivals/performances. FAILURE TO MEET DEADLINES FOR DEPOSITS/INSTALLMENTS WILL JEOPARDIZE A STUDENT'S PARTICIPATION. Students who aren't paid up by the deadlines may not be allowed to tour with the group. Outstanding debts to the band will also carry throughout the student's high school career until s/he pays up. A student may be prevented from graduating if s/he does not pay up by the end of his/her senior year.**

If a student hasn't fundraised enough money to fulfill his or her requirement by a deadline, he/she must pay the difference. An updated sheet that lists band account amounts will be posted in the band room periodically.

## **8. About Sectionals**

The MEHS band is fairly large. In order to address each individual musical section's needs, there will be "smaller" rehearsals during the week called sectionals. Sectionals will be led by section leaders. A section leader is the head of your section. He or she is partially responsible for the section's grades. Grades by section leaders will be based on rehearsal, sectional, and performance attendance; behavior; preparedness; etc.

Each section must schedule **at least one lunchtime sectional per week**. Every band member must attend sectionals, as **sectionals will contribute to a significant part of a member's grade**.

### *a. Musical Sectionals*

Musical sectionals are meant for individual sections to practice and fine-tune their parts together. Musical sectionals are like mini-rehearsals. It is crucial that students make the most of each musical sectional by practicing their parts beforehand.

There will be at least one lunchtime during the week. Students must come to their section's sectional **on time** (time subject to sectional leader's choice) or will not receive sectional credit for that week. Each section will agree on a day of the week to have their sectionals on.

### *b. Other sectionals (Spirit-Building Activities) - optional*

As far as other sectionals, such as extra activities within a section (which might not be related to music at all), are meant to let the members of each section get to know each other outside of a classroom environment.

\*\*\*8a. Regarding sectionals and practicing:\*\*\*

## Sectionals are not meant to replace individual practice time.

Practice & learn your own part at home. This way, if you have any questions or have trouble with playing sections of your music, you can practice as a group during sectionals. Think of practice time as your homework for band. If you don't do your homework, chances are that you won't do so well come class time. This will hurt you and the entire band in the long run, whether through a test grade, a band review, and/or a performance. You don't practice only for yourself. *You are practicing for the benefit and success of the band.*

Don't be discouraged if you feel that you believe that you are "left behind." Take advantage of the resources around you – keep on practicing, arrange individual meetings with your section leader, or even get together with a few people from your section and practice together. Our music is not impossible to play for any single band member. *Only you can take charge of your musical education!*

# WELCOME TO THE MEHS BAND!!

Note: rules subject change as the band director desires.

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### CONTRACT AGREEMENT SIGNATURES

Signing this slip certifies that the **student & his/her parent/guardian** have read this entire rule book and that they agree with all terms and conditions regarding his/her membership as an MEHS musician.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, have read this rule book in its entirety and agree to  
(student name)  
follow **all** of the terms and conditions. Failure to do so will result in penalty.

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date