



Jason Harris - Band Director

Kat Norton - Choreographer

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Maplewood Richmond Heights Middle & High School Blue Devil Band Handbook 2016-17

WELCOME to the 2016-2017 Maplewood Richmond Heights 7-12 Band program! I am confident the experiences gained will be beneficial and well worth the daily hard work and effort that becoming a successful musician requires. The design of the following material is put together to help answer and clarify any questions or concerns that may occur during the school year. If any questions about the band program still remain, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Harris.

In order to provide more effective communication to our band families, we encourage everyone to make regular visits to our band web site (www.bluedevilbands.org). You can also follow the bands on Twitter [@BlueDevilsRnB](https://twitter.com/BlueDevilsRnB), Facebook at [BlueDevilBands](https://www.facebook.com/BlueDevilBands), and Youtube at [BlueDevilsRnB](https://www.youtube.com/BlueDevilsRnB).

Please subscribe to Remind, a free service to receive text message & email updates about band. Instructions can be found on the next page of this document.

I continue to be impressed by the character and dedication of our students. I am looking forward to another successful school year filled with fun and excitement and great musical experiences built on meaningful relationships between our students, parents, and community. Welcome back! - or if you are joining us for the first time - Welcome aboard!

Sincerely,

Jason Harris

Band Director

Maplewood Richmond Heights School District

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address: 7539 Manchester Rd, Maplewood, MO 63143



LET'S GET CONNECTED!

REMIND

What is it? *Remind* is a service that provides a safe way for teachers to text message students and/or parents. Using Remind, teachers can engage their students and parents more effectively without needing to share phone numbers.

How does it work? Great question! First, a teacher adds his/her class, which generates a unique code. The teacher then shares that code with students or parents. At that point, any student or parent who sends a text message with the code will be "subscribed" to the teacher's class. Any time a teacher sends a message from Remind, all the students or parents subscribed will receive it. Click the appropriate link to subscribe Remind for your band class:

Middle School Band Courses

[P1 Band 2](#) (Instrumental Music 2 or 2nd year band)

[P7 Band 1](#) (Instrumental Music 1 or Beginning Band)

[MS BAND PARENTS](#) - remind messaging group

High School Band Courses

[AM3 Stage Band](#)

[AM4 Stage Band](#)

[PM1 Jazz Ensemble 1](#)

[PM2 Jazz Ensemble 2](#)

[HS BAND PARENTS](#) - remind messaging group

Video Tutorials

- ★ [3 ways to join Remind](#)
 - ★ [How does Remind work?](#)
-

Middle School Band Course Descriptions

Instrumental Music I (first year or beginning band)

Course Description: Instrumental Music I is a two-semester course designed to teach students music fundamentals and instrumental techniques pertaining to brass, woodwind, electric bass and/or percussion instruments. Instrumental Music I students are expected to develop beginning performance techniques in solo, small group, and large group settings, with emphasis on reading and performing using appropriate articulation, dynamics, and interpretive skills. Students will perform instrumental music in a variety of settings including, but not limited to, concerts, solo and ensemble performances. Students will critique and reflect on their own performances and the performances of others. Students will make connections between music traditions and other arts, disciplines, and cultures. Students will receive instruction on tone production, music reading skills, basic music theory, and instrument care. The student is expected to provide his/her own instrument and supplies. This is year long course that open to all 7th and 8th grade students.

CONCERT DATES FOR ALL 2016-17 BAND STUDENTS

1. FALL BAND CONCERT: Wednesday, November 16, 7PM
 2. SPRING BAND & CHOIR CONCERT: Wednesday, May 3, 7PM
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Instrumental Music II (second year or intermediate band)

Course Description: Instrumental Music II is a two-semester course designed for students who have successfully completed Instrumental Music I. Instrumental Music II students shall further expand their knowledge of music fundamentals and instrumental techniques pertaining to brass, woodwind, electric bass and/or percussion instruments. Students are expected to develop advanced performance techniques in solo, small group, and large group settings, with greater emphasis on reading and performing using appropriate articulation, dynamics, and interpretative skills. Instrumental Music II students will critique instrumental music performances and reflect upon the impact of instrumental music upon society as well as societal influences on instrumental music. Students will regularly perform instrumental music in a variety of settings including, but not limited to, concerts, solo and ensemble performances, and festivals. The student is expected to provide his/her own instrument, book and supplies. This is a year long course and is open to all 7th & 8th grade students who have completed at least one year of band at MRHSD or at another school district.

CONCERT DATES FOR ALL 2016-17 BAND STUDENTS

1. FALL BAND CONCERT: Wednesday, November 16, 7PM
 2. SPRING BAND & CHOIR CONCERT: Wednesday, May 3, 7PM
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High School Band Course Descriptions

Jazz Ensembles I & II (1 year course / 1 credit), replaces Jazz Bands 1 & 2

Course Description: These performing groups are select instrumental ensembles comprised of up to 20 students each who generally have at least 2-3 years experience on the saxophone, trumpet, trombone, piano, electric guitar, bass guitar, or drums. Students delve into jazz improvisation and a variety of different styles such as swing, blues, shuffles, Latin, fusion, and rock/funk. Students receive personal instruction primarily in aspects of tone, instrumental technique, and styles respective to their instruments. Participation in dress rehearsals and performances outside the school day is required. Students must supply their own instruments, except for drums and keyboard; amplifiers are provided at school. These courses provide basic instruction in jazz-related rhythm, tone, style, concept, listening skills, woodwind-doubling possibilities, and improvisation. The ultimate goal of these ensembles is to give interested students an opportunity to study and perform jazz ensemble literature.

Prerequisite: Instructor approval required. Students must have completed a minimum of two years of middle school band.

2016-2017 Jazz Ensembles I & II Performance Dates

1. Wednesday, November 16, 5:30-9:30PM: Fall Band Concert, Theatre
2. Wednesday, February 22, 5-8PM: Soul Food Supper, HS Cafeteria
3. Wednesday, May 3, 5:30-9:30PM: Spring Band & Choir Concert, Theatre
4. Wednesday, May 17, 5:30-7:30PM: 8th Grade Promotion, Theatre
5. Friday, May 19, 6:30-8:30PM, High School Graduation, Athletic Field

Stage Band (1 year course / 1 credit)

Course Description: Rhythm and blues, folk, rock, jazz, gospel, soul and other pop music styles will be performed by this ensemble with emphasis placed on developing ensemble playing, as opposed to developing individual improvisational skills. This ensemble may be composed of the traditional “big band” instrumentation – saxophones, trumpets, trombones, rhythm section, and augmented with non-traditional instruments. This music performance class features the Rhythm & Blues Band, the school rock band that involves some of the school’s finest instrumentalists and vocalists. The main focus of the band is to provide engaging and inspiring music at school and community events. In addition, over the past several years, the group has been able to expand its musical repertoire and perform at a variety of other venues, such as: Maplewood’s Concert for a Cause, Taste of Maplewood, and the National School Boards Association Conference in New Orleans, LA. Students must supply their own instruments except for drums and keyboards; amplifiers are provided at school. All students will be expected to memorize all of their music and choreography.

Prerequisite: Audition and/or instructor approval required. Open to vocalists & rhythm section musicians with prior experience. Auditions will be posted on the band website (www.bluedevilbands.org) in mid-July. All student auditions will take place when the class meets during the first week of school. Students without prior experience are encouraged to enroll in Music Theory I for one semester while taking weekly private music lessons on their chosen instrument outside of school. These students may audition for Stage Band at the start of the next semester. If outside music lessons are not possible, students should take Music Studio while simultaneously taking Music Theory I with Mr. Harris so they are properly prepared for the Stage Band Auditions the following semester.

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SPRING BAND & CHOIR CONCERT: Wednesday, May 3, 7PM

*****Class attendance is mandatory during all performance weeks. Check following calendar prior to signing up for field trips.*****

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2016-2017 Stage Band Performance Calendar

Fall Semester - 2016

1. Sunday, September 18, 1-6PM: Homecoming Tech/Full Band Rehearsal, HS/MS Commons & Theatre
2. Friday, September 23, 5-8PM: Homecoming Performance, HS/MS Commons
3. Sunday, November 13, 1-6PM: Fall Concert Tech/Dress Rehearsal, Theatre
4. Wednesday, November 16, 5:30-9:30PM: Fall Band Concert, Theatre (concert starts at 7PM)
5. Sunday, December 11, 1-6PM: Band Fundraising Concert Tech/Dress Rehearsal, Theatre - **TENTATIVE**
6. Thursday, December 15, 3:30-6:30PM: Band Fundraising Concert Tech/Dress Rehearsal, Theatre - **TENTATIVE**
7. Friday, December 16, 7-9PM: Band Fundraising Concert, Theatre - **TENTATIVE**

Spring Semester - 2017

8. Sunday, February 12, 1-5PM: Snowflake Ball Tech/Dress Rehearsal, Band Room
9. Friday, February 17, 5-9PM: Snowflake Ball, ECC Gymnasium
10. Wednesday, February 22, 5-8PM: Soul Food Supper, HS Cafeteria
11. Sunday, March 5, 1-6PM: HS Awards Tech/Dress Rehearsal, Theatre
12. Friday, March 10, 8AM-11:30AM: HS Awards Celebration, Theatre
13. Sunday, April 30, 1-6PM: Spring Band/Choir Concert Tech/Dress Rehearsal, Theatre
14. Wednesday, May 3, 5:30-9:30PM: Spring Band & Choir Concert, Theatre
15. Saturday, May 13, 9AM-12:30PM: Taste of Maplewood Tech/Dress Rehearsal, Band Room
16. Wednesday, May 17, 5:30-7:30PM: 8th Grade Promotion, Theatre
17. Friday, May 19, 6:30-8:30PM, High School Graduation, Athletic Field
18. Saturday, May 20, 9:30AM-3:30PM, Taste of Maplewood, Sutton Blvd

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BAND POLICY

In order to assist band members and parents in understanding areas of responsibility, a statement of band policy is herein set forth. Becoming familiar with this policy will enable each individual to make the most of this great opportunity to be a member of the Maplewood Richmond Heights Middle School & High School band program, becoming a better person and a better musician.

We firmly believe that the student should improve through regular practice. In the Maplewood Richmond Heights band program we feel that when the student has lost the will to improve him / herself or make a better contribution to the band, he/she is wasting the time and efforts of his / her fellow members and the community by continuing in this program. The HAPPIEST student is the one who is improving through regular habits of practice and daily progress. He / she must not only know right from wrong, but must be able to stand for principles. He / she must develop a high sense of purpose toward which he / she is willing to work. **RESPONSIBILITY is the focus behind any level of achievement within this program.** We intend to conduct ourselves in a manner that will facilitate all students in learning and bettering themselves.

THE IMPORTANCE OF ATTITUDE

The greatest single factor that will determine the success of any individual or organization is **attitude**. The kind of person that you are is an individual choice and how we feel about something, which involves attitude, is one of the few actual independent choices that we have in life. It takes intense dedication to reach goals. Students should learn to discipline themselves to daily practice on fundamentals. The “right attitude” must be present along with sincerity, concentration, and dedication as the basic foundation. Such an attitude makes an artistic performance inevitable and is the difference between a winning organization and a mediocre group. The band can do much for you. Make the most of it in every rehearsal and performance.

THE IMPORTANCE OF DISCIPLINE

Because of the nature of the organization, discipline must be consistent! Band students and parents must believe in the ideals, principles, and philosophy of the organization. Each member must always be aware of good behavior and think for himself. Any misconduct casts a bad light on the school, community, and band program. Any member who casts discredit to the organization by his/her conduct or actions in band, in another class, or on a trip, shall be subject to dismissal from the band program or may lose a privilege within the program. This may include the chance to go on a spring trip or perform in a school concert. This decision will be at the director’s discretion.

EXPECTATIONS OF THE BAND MEMBER

- Be on time to all rehearsals and performances. EARLY IS ON TIME – ON TIME IS LATE.
- Upon entering the rehearsal setting, acquire your instrument and go directly to your seat.
- When the director or staff member requests your attention, all talking should cease.
- Come to rehearsal with a GOOD ATTITUDE.
- Ensure there is no excess playing (i.e. horsing around on the instrument); only good solid material.
- Make a real effort to improve on a daily basis and establish a good practice routine.
- At the end of rehearsal, put all materials in their proper locations.
- Maintain a strong academic standing in all course work.
- Become responsible for and assume responsibility for your own actions. Admit when you are wrong.
- Have a proper respect for yourself and those in authority.
- Read and play music with insight – develop and maintain high musical expectations.

PARENTS’ RESPONSIBILITY TO THE BAND

It is the responsibility of every parent and guardian to see that the policies outlined in the HANDBOOK are followed and that the form attached to the front of this document is signed and returned. The form states that you UNDERSTAND the policies as set within, and that any questions are to be directed to the band director by making an appointment. Each parent IS responsible for the attendance of his/her child at all band functions. It is the

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responsibility of each parent to see that their child practices his / her instrument daily. The hands of the director are tied without the help of parents.

HOW PARENTS CAN HELP

When a “band question” arises, it is important that you get factual information before discussing it with others. We do more harm to ourselves, the band family, when we talk about things that contain one or more “falsehoods” but consider them facts. If questions arise, please contact Mr. Harris.

- Show an interest in the music study of your child.
- Arrange a regular time for your child to practice.
- Find a quiet place where he/she can practice without interruption.
- Listen to performances of practice material, when asked to do so.
- Help the student keep a DAILY RECORD of practicing.
- Come up with a reward system for DAILY practice.
- Keep the instrument in good repair and keep at least three reeds in the case; get a metronome!
- Be extra-careful with school-owned instruments. Repair costs are high!
- Teach your child to be prepared and on time to each rehearsal or lesson.
- Provide private instruction!
- Make faithful attendance at all band activities important.
- Buy your child a personal planner for marking important dates.
- Keep the Handbook in a safe place and refer to it often.
- Notify the teacher if the student is to be absent for rehearsals or lessons.
- Double-check behind the student to make sure that they have their instrument.
- If student is absent, make sure that their folder gets to school, if they share it with someone.
- Visit rehearsals occasionally.
- Attend concerts, games, and contests.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY TO THE BAND

As members of this organization, you have a great deal of responsibility. It is essential to any program that if certain expectations are to be met that they coordinate with the privileges, rewards, and duties of the band program.

TO OURSELVES YOU have the primary responsibility of developing your own abilities. The benefits of a good instrument and private instruction can never be underestimated. What you put into it is what you will get out of it. The director is ALWAYS available for your guidance and encouragement – just ask!

TO THE SCHOOL The Maplewood Richmond Heights School District provides us with the resources for rehearsals, performances, and equipment. WE have the responsibility to provide the best possible services to our community.

TO MUSIC Music has always been a part of our culture. We must take what we have and use it for the betterment of that culture. No one expects virtuoso musicians, only your very best! The great composer Gustav Mahler once said that only 10% of a piece of music is on the page. If that is the case, then we as musicians have the duty of creating and producing the other 90%. The joy of music is not in everything that is apparent. It must be discovered and created.

TO EACH OTHER We must always do what is best for the WELFARE of the group. There can be no selfish acts solely for the benefit of the individual, but for all. Respect each other. If there are conflicts, find a way to resolve them. Never insult another band member’s integrity. The word “band” means that we are tied together and that there is no separation.

OBJECTIVES OF THE BAND PROGRAM

1. To teach music by its actual performance.
2. To develop performance skills of the various wind and percussion instruments.
3. To provide for the musical needs of the school and the community.
4. To acquaint the students with Music Theory / History and how history and musical composition relate to students' current life and musical experiences.
5. To develop the ability to function as a responsible member of a group, enhance interaction, and develop Esprit de Corps.
6. To foster leadership skills within each student.

EXPECTATIONS & REHEARSAL PROCEDURES

- Students are expected to act maturely and professionally at all rehearsals and performances.
- Start rehearsals on time:
 - Have proper equipment out and ready to begin.
 - Be in the proper section when rehearsal begins.
- Chewing gum, food, hats, and/or unnecessary talking are not permitted during rehearsals, performances, or in the band room or theatre. All garbage should be disposed of properly.
- Please keep all cases & backpacks outside the rehearsal area.
- Check the whiteboard for the rehearsal list as you enter the room and put your music in the necessary order. Brass players should obtain necessary mutes and perform instrument maintenance BEFORE the rehearsal begins. Bass & Guitar players should tune quietly BEFORE the rehearsal begins.
- All students should have individual copies of the music, even if you are sharing a stand.
- Understand the difference between REHEARSAL and PRACTICE. Rehearsal time is to be spent on areas that can only be done as a full ensemble (intonation, balance, timing, etc.). Rhythms, notes and fingerings are homework and should be worked out prior to rehearsal.
- Give your PERSONAL BEST EFFORT for EVERY rehearsal.
- Instruments and music should be taken home every day and never left at school overnight.
- Instruments must be kept in the band lockers throughout the entire school day, except when being used for class.
- Students may schedule additional practice time in the band room before and/or after school.
- Appropriate behavior is expected at all times – before, during and after rehearsals and performances.
- Instruments and equipment must be cleaned and maintained in proper working condition.

DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES

If a problem with a student arises, the following steps will take place:

1. Conference with student.
 2. Phone call home to parent.
 3. Conference with parent, student, and director.
 4. Conference with administrator, parent, student, and director.
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CLASS MATERIALS

Materials needed for every band class/rehearsal

- 1.5" 3-ring binder** (hard cover).
- a **working instrument** (including reeds, oil, grease, etc.) If your instrument is in the shop, please provide a receipt,
- name tag** on the outside of the instrument case at all times,
- music, sharpened pencil, class handouts, music folder, earbuds/headphones**
- laptops (with required programs).
- Amps, drums and a piano are provided. **Patch cords, drumsticks and guitar picks are NOT provided.** If you don't have these items, you will be marked as not having an instrument.
- Every guitar and bass player must label his or her patch cord by attaching a piece of masking tape and writing his or her name on it. If this has been done, the teacher will help make sure patch cords remain with the players to whom they belong. If a cord is not labeled, the teacher takes no responsibility for its general use!
- All band students will be assigned a locker in the band room to store their instrument and music during the school day.

ADDITIONAL SUPPLIES

- Flutes:** a flute cleaning rod and thin clean cotton cloth (such as a white cotton handkerchief); a swab for cleaning.
- Clarinets:** a minimum of three Rico #2 1/2 reeds should be kept at all times; cork grease; a swab for cleaning.
- Alto Saxophones:** three Rico #2 1/2 reeds should be kept at all times; a swab for cleaning (pad saver); cork grease; neck strap
- Trumpets:** valve oil; tuning slide grease; a brass polishing cloth; Bach 7C mouthpiece; a cleaning "snake", and a mouthpiece brush
- Trombones:** slide oil; tuning slide grease; a brass polishing cloth; a cleaning "snake", and a mouthpiece brush
- Percussion:** Percussion section members must supply their own sticks, mallets and practice pad (with adjustable height stand) for each group they are in. All percussion section members are encouraged to have a bell kit/xylophone at home for practice purposes.
- Metronome and Tuner** (free computer software is available for these items).

FORMAL CONCERT DRESS

- Boys: Black dress shoes, black socks, black dress pants, black dress shirt, black suit jacket. No t-shirts, jeans, or tennis shoes.
- Girls: Black shoes, black dress or black pants, and black dress blouse.
- STAGE BAND students will have an alternate uniform. Information about those items will be sent home within the first week of school.

CONCERT ETIQUETTE

Proper concert etiquette is an important part of presenting a professional performance. All students are expected to abide by the following guidelines while at a performance:

- Students must attend the entire concert
- Students must wear the uniform correctly at all times.
- Students must sit in their seats quietly while others are performing.
- Students should applaud at appropriate times.
- Students must take care of their instrument & music before, during and after the concert.
- Students must help put chairs/stands/percussion equipment away following concert.
- No food, drinks, or gum are allowed in the theatre.

RENTAL INSTRUMENTS

[Nottelmann's Music Company](#) (314-631-1486, 1590 Lemay Ferry Road) & [Music & Arts](#) offer band instruments to rent on a monthly basis through convenient rental-purchase plans, so you can rent an instrument for a trial period to see how your child will progress. Each of these companies provide free maintenance to all instruments under their rental agreements and they send a representative to the school on a weekly basis to repair and/or deliver instruments. Typically, monthly rental fees range from \$19 - \$45, depending on the type of instrument and its condition, used or new. (Note: There are other music stores in the St. Louis area that offer similar rental programs but representative from those stores do not make visits to the MRH campus.)

SCHOOL-OWNED INSTRUMENT POLICY

Some students may need to use a school-owned instrument. These instruments must be maintained throughout the year and returned in good working condition. Instruments will be inspected by the students at the time of issue, and by a director at the time of return. A written contract will be issued for these instruments that must be signed by the student, parent and director. All repair costs will be charged to the student. Unpaid repair charges will be turned in as a fine to the MRH financial office. For instruments that are lost or damaged beyond repair, replacement costs will be assessed at the current market value.

INSTRUMENT REPAIRS

Representatives from both music companies will visit the school once each week to pick up damaged instruments. These companies will repair instruments purchased from **any** source. Students with damaged instruments must fill out a repair form before the instrument can be sent for service. The cost of the repair is the responsibility of the owner. If you would like to request an estimate before the repair is completed, please indicate so on the repair form. A limited supply of loaner instruments may be available.

LOST MUSIC

Students will be responsible for all music that is assigned to them. Lost parts (original) need to be replaced by the student. Replacement costs are as follows:

- Concert Music: \$4.00 (includes cost of part plus postage)
- Band Folders: \$1.00
- Jazz Music: \$40.00 (minimum) – *cannot be ordered as individual parts*
- Solo & Ensemble Music: Prices Varies – *cannot be ordered as individual parts*
- A variety of method books are provided for student use. These should remain in the proper cabinet slot when not in use. These books should not leave the room unless they have been assigned to the student for take home use.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic integrity is the pursuit of scholarly activity free from fraud and deception and is an educational objective of this institution. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarizing, fabricating of information or citations, facilitating acts of academic dishonesty by others, having unauthorized possession of examinations, submitting work of another person or work previously used without informing the instructor, or tampering with the academic work of other students. Cheating or plagiarizing is strongly prohibited. Any incidences will be handled in accordance with the school policies.

GRADING POLICY

Quarters 1-4

24%	Daily Work	240 points = 6 points per day
16%	Preparedness	160 points = 4 points per day
16%	Weekly Practice	160 points = 4 points per day
14%	Music Theory	140 points
10%	Playing Tests	100 points
20%	Performances	200 points

EXTRA CREDIT: Occasionally, assignments or activities will be made available for extra credit. Students may receive extra credit points by attending professional concerts in the community, such as but not limited to the following: St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, Fox Theatre Events, Jazz at the Bistro, Webster Symphony Orchestra, Union Avenue Opera, St. Louis Opera Theatre, St. Louis Philharmonic Orchestra, etc. Student should submit a program and write a paragraph describing the event. When in doubt, please speak to the instructor to ensure that attending a particular event will count towards extra credit points.

LATE WORK: Assignments will only be accepted during the grading period they were assigned. (Example: assignments given first 5 weeks of school will not be accepted beyond the 1st progress report. Assignments made weeks 6-10, will only be accepted until the end of the 1st quarter.)

PERFORMANCE COMMITMENT

Performances are the culmination of our rehearsal efforts and preparation, and are an important part of the band curriculum. All students are required to participate in scheduled events. Optional events such as solo and ensemble or honors bands are not required. The student is expected to attend all required concerts as part of their Performance grade. **Students will have until August 24, 2016 to report all conflicts they may have with their performance dates for this school year.** To request an excused absence for a performance, the student must have a written parent request (an email from parent is preferred). The parental request should include student name, performance date and prior commitment. Students should be able to participate in a variety of school-sponsored activities. Conflicts in scheduling school-sponsored activities are sometimes inevitable. The following guidelines will be used to resolve these conflicts:

1. Conflicts should be avoided through advanced, cooperative planning by student, parent, and school personnel.
2. It is the student's responsibility to notify the director and other teacher of the conflict as soon as possible.
3. The director and teachers involved will work out the conflict with the help of the principal and notify the student of the modified schedule.
4. A performance or game will take precedence over a practice or rehearsal.
5. School-related activities will take precedence over non-school related activities.
6. Students may be excused from a performance commitment, without penalty, for emergency reasons. Emergencies will be dealt with on an individual basis.
7. Work is not an excused absence. Students will not be excused from a performance commitment for work.
8. Students who receive an unexcused absence for a performance may have their quarter grade affected by no more than 20% of the total points.
9. In the event of an unexcused absence from a performance commitment, the future eligibility of the student in the performance ensemble will be assessed.
10. In the event of multiple unexcused absences from a performance commitment, the future eligibility of the student in the performance ensemble will be assessed.
11. Additional performances (if any) to the schedule will be announced as far in advance as possible.

PERFORMANCE MAKE-UPS

Ideally the student attends all scheduled performances. There are occasions however, where a student must miss a performance due to sickness, a death in the family, or some other unavoidable circumstance. If the absence is an excused absence, the student may do the Performance Make-Up Assignment and receive performance credit for the event. If the absence is an unexcused absence, the student must do the Performance Make-Up Assignment to earn points toward that performance grade. The Performance Make-Up Assignment is twofold:

1. Create and submit a video recording of yourself playing the pieces that we played on the missed performance (auxiliary members must make a videotape of themselves performing routines for the pieces that we played on the performance).
2. Interview three people about the performance you missed, then type a five page review of the performance. Don't just turn in the interview notes, write a review! Typically, the make-up assignment is due 5 days after the student returns to school.

EXCUSED ABSENCE

An excused absence is the same as specified by school policy: personal illness, a death in the family, or prior written excuse presented and excused by the band director and/or principal.

PRIVATE INSTRUCTION

As one might expect, private lessons on a musical instrument are the best way to improve performance skills. The one-on-one approach allows the student to benefit from the individual attention as opposed to a teacher monitoring a class of over thirty. A recent survey of students in the All-State Band revealed that approximately 80 % of the students in the band studied privately. Students are generally more inclined to practice diligently for a weekly music assignment and this discipline increases the student's enjoyment with their instrument. The MRH Band Director will be more than happy to assist in the selection of a private teacher.

SUMMER INSTRUCTION

There are many nationally known summer institutes for instrumental instruction. Some of the best are Brevard Music Center, Sewanee, Interlochen Arts Camp, Aspen Summer Music Program, Kinhaven, Keystone Brass Institute, and Tanglewood. There are also regional summer music camps at several local universities. Check the [band website](#) for additional information.

SCHOLARSHIPS

There are a wide variety of scholarships available for both music majors and non-music majors on the collegiate level. Many universities grant partial scholarships or a one-time scholarship to students who simply agree to play in an ensemble, and some will waive out-of-state tuition. Information varies at each school. Ask in the music office and we will do all that we can to help in your future endeavors.

USE OF THE BAND FACILITY

The use of band facilities before, after, and during school is a privilege. Students who abuse the facility will be disciplined accordingly. Any abuse or damage will be considered vandalism. **NO OUTSIDE STUDENTS ARE PERMITTED IN THE BANDROOM** except for business with the director. There will be no horseplay, i.e. throwing of things, in or around the band room. All percussion & rhythm section equipment is off limits to anyone not specifically designated to use them. No storing of personal items – **THE BAND ROOM IS NOT A LOCKER ROOM!**

Practice rooms are to be used for **practice or private instruction**. Keep the room neat with the appropriate music stands in place.

LIBRARY, BAND OFFICE, DANCE STUDIO, PHONE

The **library** is private and is to be used only by the library staff. Materials may be checked out through the librarian; this includes Solos, Ensembles, and Etude Books. The **band office** is private and is not to be entered by any student without permission from the director or a staff member. All students should keep in mind that this is a place of business. Telephone use should be kept to a minimum and is not for personal use. Ask permission before using.

PRACTICE

As with any activity, you get out of it what you put into it. Band will not be “FUN” unless you practice! There are many values in the study of music as a discipline that transfer to other areas of life. Although this will not immediately happen, persistent practice will lead to enthusiastic, driven practice. Remember: “Perfect Practice makes Perfect!” Here is a suggested plan of study:

- Pick a set time each day
- Have an acoustically dry place of practice
- Use our daily warm-up & think “tone”
- Play a variety of scales at every practice session
- Take a break every 20 minutes
- Work on technique (articulations, accents, etc.)
- Practice sight-reading
- Use a tuner for a portion of your practice session
- Increase dynamic range (work on pianissimo)
- Increase endurance (15 minutes of full tone playing)
- Increase range (highest note with good tone)
- Use a metronome for part of the time
- “I will start with ___ minutes and increase to

ST. LOUIS SUBURBAN MUSIC EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION HIGH SCHOOL HONORS BAND

Tryouts for this select group occur the first Monday in November. This is the first step toward becoming a member of the Missouri All-State Band, Jazz Band or Orchestra. The required try-out music is available in the band office. All high school band students are encouraged to audition for this prestigious ensemble. You can't make it if you don't try out!

Students who are selected to an All-Suburban ensemble will attend a short series of rehearsals in order to prepare for a concert held in January. Everyone in an All-Suburban ensemble is eligible to audition again in December for a position in one of the All-State performing groups.

Audition music for these ensembles is listed on websites that can be found through links on www.bluedevilbands.org. Students are encouraged to purchase the method books that contain the audition etudes. Students who wish to audition will perform for the director before their applications are submitted. Further details will be provided to those who express interest in this activity.

ST. LOUIS SUBURBAN MUSIC EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION SOLO AND ENSEMBLE FESTIVAL

High School students are encouraged to prepare solos and/or small ensembles that challenge each student's ability. Music is chosen by the student and the director from a selected list (prepared by MSHSAA). Practice time and rehearsals are the responsibility of the students. All Festival participants are required to perform at an Open House in the Band Room to receive director feedback prior to the festival. Students will perform for a judge in March, and are rated on various musical concerns as outlined by the festival. If students receive a "I" rating at this festival, they are eligible to perform again at the State Solo and Ensemble Festival held one month later in Columbia, Missouri.

All festival participants will receive a detailed packet after they sign up in the Band Room. Students who wish to play a solo at this festival must have a private teacher or set up weekly practice sessions with the band director before the event will be entered in the festival.

Blue Devil Bands Social Media Policy

Introduction

Our members take great pride in belonging to the Blue Devil Bands at Maplewood Richmond Heights School District and many consider sharing their experiences and support for the Blue Devil Bands with friends and family members through personal social media sites such as Facebook, YouTube, Snapchat, and Twitter. Blue Devil Bands requires that all of our current members do so in compliance with this Social Media Policy, which has been created to protect both you and the Blue Devil Bands Program. Every Blue Devil Band member will sign a statement that they have read, understand, and agree with the guidelines of this policy. These guidelines also apply when communicating online.

Guiding Principles

The guiding rule is that you are responsible for what you write. When you choose to go public with your opinions, you are legally liable for your commentary. Use good judgment in determining if you are the most appropriate person to make such a comment and ensure that you are not violating Blue Devils Bands interests or confidentiality.

Disclose your affiliation. Transparency is important. Always disclose that you are a member of Blue Devil Bands. State that your comments are your personal opinion, not that of the Blue Devil Bands. Honor the privacy rights of the Blue Devil Band members, staff, and volunteers. Do not cite or refer to other members, staff, or volunteers without their approval. Blue Devil Band members are asked during their first week of classes to sign a media release form allowing MRHSD to post photos and videos and use their images in published materials. Not all members give such permission and we take care not to display their images.

You are allowed to share photos and videos from Blue Devil Bands activities and concerts, however individuals should not be identified or identifiable unless you are sure you have their permission to post such images. Individuals can be held personally liable for their commentary. Act responsibly and ethically. Honor the same standards we expect at rehearsals and performances. All of your posts and comments must be in good taste and appropriate for all audiences. Such posts and comments may not contain any material that: is profane, obscene, scandalous, libelous, harassing, unlawful, or infringes on the rights of any third party; may provoke, shock, or offend the community or any sizable group or class thereof; disparages Blue Devils Bands or its members, officers, directors, or the MRH School District.

Respect copyright, fair use, and financial disclosure laws.

Do not use the Blue Devil Bands logo(s) or reproduce Blue Devil Bands materials or music without first obtaining permission from the Music Director. Be mindful of the copyright and intellectual property rights of others and the Blue Devil Bands. Do not use the Blue Devil Bands logo for endorsements or to promote a product, cause, or political party or candidate. Feel free to share or link to any information that is posted on our official Blue Devil Band's website, Facebook page, or Twitter feed.

Remember your audience: Be aware that a presence in the social media world is available to the public at large. This includes prospective students, current students, current staff, their families, and peers. Consider this before publishing to ensure the post will not alienate, harm, or provoke any of these groups. Comment only on topics about which you have first-hand knowledge and experience. **Behind-the-scenes information is exactly that and should remain confidential.** Take care not to purposefully or inadvertently disclose any information that is confidential or proprietary to Blue Devil Bands.

Think twice before posting. Privacy does not exist in the world of social media. Consider what could happen if a post becomes widely known and how that may reflect both on the poster and Blue Devil Bands. Search engines can turn up posts years after they are created, and comments can be forwarded and copied. Try to add value. Provide worthwhile information and perspective. Be thoughtful and accurate in your posts and

*****CONCERT DATES FOR ALL 2016-17 BAND STUDENTS*****

FALL BAND CONCERT: Wednesday, November 16, 7PM

SPRING BAND & CHOIR CONCERT: Wednesday, May 3, 7PM

respectful of how other members may be affected; do not post details about new projects and collaborations that have not yet been announced to the members and the public; do not post personal information about any individual, other members, volunteers, or staff.

Policy Violations

Members of Blue Devil Bands Program are expected to follow this policy. Any violations of this policy may lead to disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal from the Blue Devil Bands Program.

Questions

If you have any questions regarding this policy, please speak with the Music Director or the Choreographer. If you see something that you believe is inaccurate and/or needs an official response or correction from Blue Devil Bands, please notify us.

Policy Revisions

This Social Media Policy is subject to change at any time, with or without notice to members. You are responsible for ensuring that you are familiar with the latest version of this Policy and understand its contents. Updated versions will always be available on the Blue Devil Band's website in the courses area. You should review it on a regular basis to ensure you understand the policy and its requirements. Remember that you're representing the whole band when you post something online, not just yourself.

"Always be conscious of how your posts on social media sound out loud and the weight your words can carry. Consistently keep in mind that when posting on behalf of your band, you are not representing just yourself as an individual, but multiple people. If you have a social platform that people pay attention to, use it wisely and consciously."

- Kevin Maida

Blue Devil Bands Handbook Confirmation Page

Please complete this form, detach it from the packet and return it to Mr. Harris no later than Monday, August 22, 2016. Participation in band courses requires this form to be returned in a timely manner.

Student's Name (first & last) _____ **Date** _____

Grade _____ **Class** _____

Shirt Size: XS S M L XL XXL (circle one)

Preferred Shirt Cut: Male Cut Female Cut (circle one)

Instrument _____ **Make/Model** _____

Serial Number _____ **Rent / Own / Borrow** (circle one)

Student Initials	STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY & ACCOUNTABILITY
	<input type="checkbox"/> I have read and understand the Blue Devil Band Social Media Policy as printed in the 2016-17 Blue Devil Band Handbook. I agree to abide by the guidelines and expectations stated in said policy.
	<input type="checkbox"/> I have marked my calendar, notified the Athletic Director, my teachers, coaches, parents and employer of the commitments I have made to Blue Devil Bands for the 2016-17 school year. I am fully aware of the dates to which I am committing. I realize the importance that my attendance plays in the success of any band performance, and I agree to abide by the guidelines and expectations as stated in this policy.
	<input type="checkbox"/> I have signed up for the REMIND messaging service for my specific band course.
	<input type="checkbox"/> I will bring all expected materials and music equipment to every band class/rehearsal/performance and take actions to prepare the assigned music to the best of my abilities.

I/We have read, understand, and agree to the information outlined in the 2016-2017 Blue Devil Bands Handbook. I have given special attention to the sections on grading policies, attendance, rules, and fees. I understand that my child will be expected to comply with these requirements and expectations throughout the current school year. In addition I am confirming that my child will be performing at the events listed in the course descriptions for their particular band class, and will adhere to the required dress codes as printed in this document. In addition I/we give permission for Blue Devil Bands to use videos & pictures of my/our child on the Band's website, YouTube Channel, Facebook Page, hallway displays, and concert programs.

PARENT SIGNATURE _____ **DATE** _____

Parent/Guardian Name (please print) _____

Parent Email: _____ **Phone:** _____

Please complete this form, detach it from the packet and return it to Mr. Harris no later than Monday, August 22, 2016. Participation in band courses requires this form to be returned in a timely manner.