



BAND AND COLOR GUARD STUDENT/PARENT HANDBOOK

RESPONSIBILITIES – OBLIGATIONS – POLICIES

We hope that both students and parents will find this handbook of guidelines and rules, useful and informative. Please read the entire contents of this handbook, and return the next page signed by both the Student and Parent/Guardian. There will be more information sent via email, and on the MDCHS website. We suggest you keep the handbook in a spot where you can easily locate it for quick reference throughout the school year. The information contained herein is also available on our website at materdeicatholic.org/band-color-guard.

MATER DEI CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
1615 Mater Dei Drive, Chula Vista, California 91913

(619) 423-2121

materdeicatholic.org

BAND AND COLOR GUARD STUDENT/PARENT HANDBOOK

RESPONSIBILITIES, OBLIGATIONS AND POLICIES

This page is to be returned on or before the **FIRST** day of Band Camp.

WE HAVE READ AND UNDERSTOOD THE RESPONSIBILITIES, OBLIGATIONS AND POLICIES OF THE MUSIC PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS AND THEIR PARENTS/GUARDIANS AS STATED IN THIS HANDBOOK.

Student Information: Print Clearly

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Grade _____ E-mail Address _____

Do you currently play an instrument? Yes___ No___

If you do, which one(s):

If you do not, is there an instrument you would like to play?

Will you need to use/rent a school instrument? Yes___ No___

STUDENT SIGNATURE: _____ DATE _____

PARENT or GUARDIAN (only one parent's/guardian's signature is required)

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Grade _____ E-mail Address _____

PARENT SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

MATER DEI CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

BAND AND COLOR GUARD PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Mater Dei Catholic High School Instrumental Music Program provides an opportunity for students to develop an appreciation for music and encourages the skills and discipline necessary for achieving success throughout a lifetime of experiences. Students learn the importance of a cooperative team effort while working with fellow members to accomplish the shared goals of the various ensembles we offer.

Music students have fun meeting new friends and traveling to new and exciting places. In addition, the program challenges students in areas of personal growth and musicianship.

The MDCHS Marching Crusaders is composed of members of the marching band and color guard team. During the first semester in the fall season, the band and guard perform at home football games, parades, and competitive events throughout Southern California.

During the second semester, selected Color Guard members may perform in the Winter Guard while band members play in Concert Band, or various small ensembles depending on their musical maturity. Members of these groups will have the opportunity to perform in solo and ensemble festivals in the area.

MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

The band program at MDCHS forms a vital and important part of the total high school experience. This group represents a colorful, visible, and highly disciplined segment of the school groups.

The Band, and Guard appearances at sporting events, concerts, parades, contests, as well as community and civic events add a great deal of color and life to the community.

The main emphasis of the music program is on musicianship and pride of accomplishment, followed closely by fostering good citizenship, meaning of tradition, morale, spirit, and loyalty. It is the pride of a job well done and the accomplishments achieved that make the sacrifices worthwhile. It is possible, by setting your schedule in a reasonable manner, to have a highly successful music career in high school and still maintain high scholastic standing. The success of the organization will lead to the success of the individual and vice versa.

Because of our unique position in the community, the band and color guard has been given various rights and privileges. We must temper these rights and privileges with several areas of responsibility.

RESPONSIBILITIES TO OURSELVES: You owe yourself the benefit of proper equipment and proper lessons. Whenever possible, you should avail yourself of the best possible quality instrument you can afford and take private lessons seriously. Group lessons at school only teach at a moderate level. YOU have the primary responsibility for learning and contributing your talent to the group. The instructors available to you are the highest quality performers and musicians San Diego has to offer! Take advantage of that opportunity.

RESPONSIBILITY TO THE SCHOOL: The school is in the process of providing the necessary facilities for our performances and some of the larger, more expensive equipment. The Music Booster Program will be supplementing the funding given to us by the school. We then, have the obligation to provide the best possible performances for the school, community, and citizens of our area.

This means, you agree to practice, take care of your instrument, and come prepared to all rehearsals and performances.

RESPONSIBILITY TO MUSIC AS AN ART FORM: Music is the only discipline that brings the various skills we learn in school together. Foreign Language, Math, Science, and Theology are all brought together by the unifying discipline that is music.

RESPONSIBILITY TO EACH OTHER: Getting along with each other in our complex society is indeed a difficult task all by itself. You have the obligation and responsibility to respect the rights of others in our music program. Excessive talking, rumor, bad manners, are all examples of antisocial behavior. Both in and out of uniform/costume—treat others as you wish to be treated.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROMPTNESS AND COMMITMENT TO THE PROGRAM: These are two essential facts vital to the success of the organization. Many times we will leave the school to perform. It is obvious that if you are late, you are left behind. YOU MUST arrange your schedule so you are able to honor your commitment to the performing groups. Remember: “to be early is to be on time – to be on time is to be late – to be late is unthinkable!!!”

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY: While we receive some financial support from school funds, it is not enough to fully fund a successful program. We have every intention of creating a very active, supportive Music Booster organization and we invite parents to join this group and to help with its activities, including raising necessary funds to support the development of your students! Parents are highly encouraged to participate in fundraising each year and to donate funds to support the booster association.

It is reasonable to ask each family to participate equally in these projects and/or to donate money to help offset the program’s expenses. Mr. Waters is committed to fully developing a championship level program at Mater Dei Catholic High School. While this goal will not happen overnight, there are financial needs that must be met in order to see that vision realized.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR ATTENDANCE: Attendance at regularly scheduled rehearsals and performances/concerts is required for membership in the program. Absences are permitted in the event OF PERSONAL ILLNESS OR DEATH IN THE FAMILY. Exceptions to this will be made on a case by case basis. Excessive absences will cause severe problems for the individual and group, and may result in loss of position or rank within the organization. All foreseen absences should be presented in writing at least a week in advance. Failure to appear at a scheduled practice or appearance without proper notice will result in a reduction of grade for that grading period. It is impossible to “make up” a performance, and the other members carry an extra burden because of someone else’s inconsideration.

As a student member of the MDCHS Performing Arts Department, understand the performance (tournaments, festivals and concerts) culminates everything we work so hard at during the year. It is

therefore, essential to your arts education that you experience the performance of your art for both performing and listening to our different groups performing.

In case of emergency or sudden illness before an after-school rehearsal or performance, please call the band office and leave a message: (858) 324-4841 - Mr. Waters

ESTIMATED EXPENSES FOR BAND STUDENTS:

Band Fee: \$65

Private Music Lessons \$90/month and up (required, can be taken with our instructors or with an outside instructor)

- Offered for \$15 for 30 min at MDCHS, which will likely cost around \$25–\$30 if taken outside of the school.

School Instrument Rental are \$75 a semester (\$15.00 per month—only if renting from the school)

- We cannot guarantee a school instrument for everyone at this time due to a lack of funds, however there are certain instruments available. Contact Mr. Waters if you'd like to rent an instrument from the school.

Instrument Upkeep: Varies (includes reeds, oils, sticks, practice pads, etc.)

ESTIMATED EXPENSES FOR COLOR GUARD STUDENTS:

Color Guard Fee: \$65

IMPORTANT! If your financial situation will not allow you to donate the above amounts, please contact Mr. Waters to work out a plan! We have some funds set aside in our budget to help students who wish to participate but cannot afford the fees. It is our goal that no one is turned away due to financial need.

MUSIC PROGRAM'S INCOME

The income of the program supports activities that are essential to a successful music program. Funds are used for group learning experiences, coaches, transportation, equipment, music, and other expenses.

GRADING PROCEDURES

High school grades will be determined in a similar manner to those below. The full and correct grading procedure will be given to the students via a syllabus on the first day of school. This **is not** the actual grading scale for the year.

FIRST SEMESTER: Marching P.E. and the student's regular Band class (i.e., Concert Band) will have almost identical requirements because the two courses are so closely related. In order to prevent a redundancy of the student taking the same test twice for two classes, usually one test or assignment will

be administered and counted for both classes. However, because of slight differences in requirements, the student may not receive the same grade for both classes.

A STUDENT'S GRADE WILL BE LOWERED BY ONE FULL GRADE FOR EACH UNEXCUSED MISSED PERFORMANCE. It is the philosophy of the MDCHS instrumental music program that the "PERFORMANCE" culminates in everything that we work for in class and is a VITAL part of the student's high school music education! Missing a performance is the equivalent of receiving an "F" on a major test in any other academic class and cannot be made up! Special cases should be discussed with Mr. Waters.

The grade "F" or "fail" will be given in situations where flagrant violations of Band policy exist, including, but not limited to, the student who:

- Willingly causes injury to another member of the group
- Misses required rehearsals or performances without prior consent by the Director/s
- Is pulled from a performance because of behavior or discipline problems
- Fails to pass or take required tests and pass-off assignments

It is the student's responsibility to make up any missed tests or assignments due to illness or excused absences in a timely fashion.

First semester final grades will be broken down by the following percentages:

- Practice logs 25%
- Participation (as explained above) 25%
- Music pass-off (by section leader and/or staff) 25%
- Proficiencies 25%

SECOND AND THIRD TRIMESTER FINAL GRADES:

- Practice logs 25%
- Participation 25%
- Playing tests 25%
- Proficiencies 25%

INFORMATION ESPECIALLY FOR PARENTS

1. Student attendance is important—don't allow students to miss school.
2. Students should practice as often as possible. Have your student play for you occasionally. Encourage excellence from them!
3. Your child is not Superman/Superwoman! Avoid overloading them with too many extra activities. Their performance may suffer overall.
4. Become involved with your student's band activities. Your presence at our events means a lot to your child and the other students in our program. Volunteering is a great way to be involved. Extra help is always needed and it counts towards your volunteer hours!

5. Make positive and encouraging comments about performances and competitions! Our attitudes reflect on our students, which in turn affects their performance.
6. Encourage good sportsmanship toward each other and to our competitors at all times.

Parents should encourage their children to achieve excellence in whatever they do. In the music program, practice and attendance at both rehearsals and performances is mandatory and will require parental support.

COURSE WORK AT MATER DEI

Please refer to Graduation Requirements regarding classes required in science, math, English, and foreign language for each grade level. Students and parents need to make sure they are on track for graduation and may need to take additional summer school or community college classes to stay in the program all four years. Our school counselors can be a big help in planning your four year schedule. One year of Concert Band will count as an "F" requirement (college prep elective) for the University of California and will meet the CSU fine art requirement. Marching PE during the fall will satisfy the PE requirement over the course of four consecutive years.

This year, freshmen will most likely not be able to enroll in a band class. We're working on changing that for next year.

MATER DEI BAND BOOSTER PROGRAM

The purpose of the Music Boosters organization is to promote and support the activities of the music students and performing groups of the Mater Dei High School Band. The Music Boosters promote and encourage musical excellence in the program.

Parents are encouraged to become involved in forming this organization that is absolutely vital to the long-term success of your students! Please see Mr. Waters for specific ways in which to become involved.

COMMUNICATION – HOW PARENTS STAY INFORMED

Mr. Waters will be communicating almost exclusively via email. Please make sure that you have information on file by filling out the form provided in this document, as well as making sure you are receiving correspondence!

Band Director, Mr. Waters
Email: mwaters@materdeicatholic.org