

THE PRIDE OF MESA RIDGE BANDS 2025

Welcome!!!

The directors, instructors, drum majors, section leaders, band council officers, and your band council representatives all stand ready to assist and guide you in becoming the “very best you can be.” We appreciate your dedication, effort, and support of Mesa Ridge High School Bands, and look forward to a great musical experience that will be remembered for a lifetime.

As a member of the Mesa Ridge Band program, you are expected to set high goals for yourself and the program. The success of YOUR band program first requires that YOU be 100% dedicated and committed to doing your part in reaching our goals! The rewards of reaching those goals are immeasurable in the development of our students as well-rounded human beings.

In addition, it is our belief that “the process is just as important as the product.” This places the emphasis on the development and growth of each individual student, not just on specific performances.

Members of the MRHS Band develop musically, emotionally, mentally, socially, and physically during their time in the program. Objectives include character-building, commitment, cooperation, dependability, determination, discipline, leadership, punctuality, respect, responsibility, and self-control.

The handbook contains guidelines, regulations, and information to ensure the success of YOUR band. Please read this handbook carefully so that you may understand from the first day what is expected of you and what you should expect as a member of the band.

Expectations and Actions of Positive Band Members:

- Excitement, Enthusiasm, Desire, Pride, Self-Motivation
- Individual members & sections pulling together as one, striving for a common goal
- Discipline, Self-control, Concentration, Dedication, Commitment, Organization
- Positive Attitude, Having the desire to excel in performance
- Demonstrate good conduct
- Dedicating time for practice and rehearsal
- Showing responsibility with regard to: attendance, punctuality, care of equipment, use of the band facility, fundraising/fair share obligations

Each band member is expected to do the following:

- Attend all rehearsals and performances - the minimum expectation is 100% attendance.
- Be on time for all classes, rehearsals, and performances.
- Be prepared for rehearsals and performances. Have instrument, drill book/coordinate sheets, music/flip-folder, lyre, pencil, extra reeds, valve oil, mutes, etc.

- Keep instrument and equipment in performance condition.
- Understand the duties of the Officers to work with them and not against them.
- Practice regularly at home (30 minutes per day min.) and study privately if at all possible. Practice time should be spent on scales, music, and etudes assigned by the Director or private instructor.
- Keep the band facility neat, orderly, and free of litter. Store instrument and music in assigned places, NOT ON THE FLOOR. Do not leave books or personal belongings in the band room.
- If you use something, PUT IT BACK (i.e. stands, chairs, music folders, etc.)
- Keep up with and be responsible for the music and equipment issued to him/her.
- Fulfill "Fair Share" obligation. Fundraising activities are provided.

BASIC RULES

The band has only three basic rules:

- 1. Be at the right place at the right time!**
- 2. Give 100% (your best effort and attitude).**
- 3. Act with respect, dignity, and class at all times.**

Every other policy falls under one of these categories.

- Students must abide by the Widefield School District Code of Student Conduct, Mesa Ridge High School Student Rules, and the MRHS Band and Handbook.
- Any instrument or equipment not belonging to or specifically assigned to you is strictly off limits. If it is not yours, DO NOT touch it.
- No gum, food or drink is allowed in the band room.
- No gum is allowed at any rehearsal or performance, or while in uniform.

The members of the Mesa Ridge Band Program are expected to conduct themselves with dignity, adhere to the adopted school and district policies at all times, respect others, and give a 100% personal effort in reaching the band's goals.

ATTENDANCE

ATTENDANCE at all rehearsals, performances, etc. is REQUIRED. The minimum expectation is 100% attendance. As a member of the band program, you occupy an important part and space in each band function. Inasmuch as the band works as a finely trained team, it is essential that every member be present for ALL functions, which include rehearsals, concerts, competitions, music performance assessments, football games, parades, and out-of-town trips. Any member who is absent makes the band less effective and has an adverse effect on the morale of the band.

Procedure for Absence

Naturally, sickness and other hardships make it necessary to miss on a rare occasion. The PARENT must notify the director far IN ADVANCE as possible if a student must miss a rehearsal or performance by:

Emailing Mr. Olivas or Mr. Eichenseer with the date and reason for absence.

1. PERMITTED (Advance notice given was at least 10 school days)

Reason: MRHS-sanctioned activity.

(Student does not lose points for the activity/event)

Note: A permitted absence may not be granted for a day on which the band gives a public performance.

2. EXCUSED Reason: Family emergency or illness.

(Student loses points for the activity/event; make-up is allowed)

3. UNEXCUSED Any absence which is not permitted or excused.

(Student loses points for the activity/event; no make-up)

Please understand that rehearsals and performances are the same as exams in other classes. We cannot divert teaching time from those who have been in attendance in order to mainstream a student who has not been in attendance. Since there is no way to “make up” these events, missing a rehearsal or performance is equivalent to not taking an exam and receiving a zero as a grade. However, ANY outside rehearsal or performance missed for an acceptable reason must be made up by completing an assignment approved by the Director. FAILURE TO MAKE UP AN ABSENCE WILL RESULT IN LOWERING OF THE BAND GRADE

****ALL PERFORMANCES AND REHEARSALS ARE MANDATORY****

***This is a class with a curriculum and a grade and MUST take precedence over a practice, game or function. We only have a few performances a year... there are many games etc. We will do our best to help you balance both obligations. Please take the time to check your calendar and schedule around possible conflicts. Musicians are team players. It is part of the fun and excitement of being in a musical ensemble. Responsibility and opportunity go hand in hand.**

Remember, excuses, even good ones, will not produce a good band.

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY / COMMITMENT TO BAND PROGRAM

A student must be in attendance at school at least a ½ day on the day of, or the last day before a performance. A student must attend the last rehearsal before a performance in order to be eligible to perform. Ineligible students are to attend band rehearsals and take rehearsal notes or do alternate work, as approved by the Director.

REHEARSAL IS SERIOUS BUSINESS
SUPERIOR bands are the result of SUPERIOR rehearsals.

Grading Process

1. Rehearsal and performance behavior and attitude
 2. Technical improvement on your instrument
 3. Playing Tests
 4. Theory and CFA quizzes and Tests
- Your performance of the concert selections; - CONCERT ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY

See Handbook for grading process details.

It is up to the individual student to maintain their grade through preparation, daily participation, performance of the material, work ethic, attitude and effort.

***Points are assigned to each rehearsal, activity, practice session, sectional, tests, and performances.**

***Points will vary on the length, intensity and difficulty of the activity.**

If a student misses ANY activity for ANY reason, he/she will lose those points. (See Attendance)

FEES AND COSTS (MARCHING)

Uniforms will be sized and handed out later in the season. You must have your signed uniform rental form and your fees paid before you will be issued a uniform. Uniforms will be fit and then stored at Mesa Ridge for issue before each performance.

You will also need to have your shoe, glove, (and instrument rental if using a school instrument) money paid by the 1st Friday of camp. These must be in so we can order your shoes and gloves for our first performance.

We will be purchasing the Drill Master – an athletic shoe styled like a marching shoe. These have much better support, cushioning, and longevity

TOTAL COST FOR NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS IS AS FOLLOWS:

ALL Members - \$225 (Includes the Following)

- Gloves
- Shoes
- Uniform Fees
- Show Shirt
- Operations Fee

Closing Remarks

Hard work, practice, dedication, and effort are the keys to success and reward. The bands at Mesa Ridge have been rewarded with performances in Missouri, Texas, California, Colorado, and Disneyland and have invitations annually. Trips and competitions are your rewards for all your hard work. Let's earn them together!!

As the Directors of the Bands at Mesa Ridge We look forward to a fun and exciting year!!! We have enjoyed terrific success and continue to raise the bar and push ourselves toward greater accomplishments. We as musicians and team members can achieve anything that we set out to do!!! All it takes is dedication, hard work, and a positive attitude!

The staff, student leaders, and Mr. O and Mr. E and Ms. M are committed to helping "The Pride of Mesa Ridge" Concert, Marching, Jazz Bands, Winterguard and Winter Percussion students succeed. In the process we hope to learn new things, perform great music, and enjoy ourselves. We can't wait to begin new traditions and carry on old traditions with some of the finest musicians anywhere!

Here's to another terrific year!!!

Phil Olivas

Owen Eichenseer

Shelby McNeill

Director of Bands
Performing Arts Chair

Assistant Director of Bands

Color Guard Director

ALL CONTEST AND COMPETITION DATES ARE TBA

The Pride of Mesa Ridge Bands

2025-2026

The entire handbook can be found on the website. Please review for details, further explanation, and in depth processes to ensure a terrific and successful year.



<https://sites.google.com/wsd3.org/mesaridgeband/home>

Please go to the website, marching band page, and fill out the student and parent google forms.