

# **INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC HANDBOOK 2024**

**MR. RYAN STAHL**

**MARCHING BAND/SYMPHONIC BANDS/JAZZ BANDS/PEP BAND**

## **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

All students are expected to be in their seats or on the field at the start of rehearsal (all marching rehearsals will start on either the practice pavement lot outside of the PAC or Joe Quintal Stadium - weather permitting). We have limited time to accomplish our goals during rehearsals, so do not be late. Tardiness will only be accepted if the student has the required documents stating that they are excused. During the marching band season, the director will give ample time for students to get back into the band room to put away instruments and get ready for 1st/2nd period.

*Music practices and performances are required.* Any request for an exception must be submitted on the conflict form google forms page and approved by the director two weeks in advance of the conflicting date - except in emergencies. Work is not an acceptable excuse for missing any music event or practice. Our schedule is always announced far enough in advance to avoid conflicts. Parents, please make every effort to schedule regular doctor's appointments around the music schedule whenever possible. If a change of schedule is necessary, a minimum of two weeks notice will be given. Students are responsible for arriving at each rehearsal and performance on time and properly prepared (properly dressed, instrument ready, music ready, materials ready).

## **ILLNESS OR MISSED PRACTICES**

If anyone is unable to attend practices due to illness, PARENTS AND/OR GUARDIANS need to email or message via REMIND Mr. Stahl. Students are not allowed to send messages on behalf of themselves. This will be the procedure for both GOLD and BLACK DAYS as sometimes rehearsals start before the actual start of school (therefore, we wouldn't notice that you have called the school). On BLACK days, you must ALSO contact the office and alert them of your absence as well.

The link to submit a conflict is at: <https://forms.gle/noKWvCgm4SXS1ESq8>

Excusable absences are:

- Sick from school
- Unavoidable doctors appt. (if this is a check-up, try to schedule around rehearsal)
- Death in the family
- Important family engagement (wedding, vacation/trip)
- Religious holiday

Non-excusable absences are:

- Homework (you must learn to manage your time)
- Attending a music concert or pro-sporting event
- Birthday
- Work
- Trips that aren't given two weeks notice (for example, you know you are going to be at a wedding, and you don't tell us until the day before you leave)
- Didn't have a ride (your section leader or director can help you find a carpool within the band)

**Scheduled Performance** - an unexcused absence from a scheduled performance will result in a 1-letter grade deduction. Two unexcused absences will result in a failing grade per grading period.

**Scheduled Rehearsals** – an unexcused absence from a scheduled rehearsal will result in a 10- point drop in grade, for each occurrence during that grading period. If you are late or tardy, still come to rehearsal as that just counts against you in our strike policy (see below). An unexcused absence would be not coming to practice at all. If you slept through your alarm and missed the entire rehearsal, parents must email me to confirm this.

## **PARTICIPATION GRADE**

Students will be given 2 points per day when they are fully prepared and participate in class. Students will lose 2 points for every day they attend a rehearsal and do not actively participate. Example – a student does not participate because they forgot their instrument, doesn't have a reed or flag. Students that have medical excuses or verified instrument repair issues will be exempt from penalty.

### **Tardy for a rehearsal or performance**

Each tardy will result in a 2% deduction, therefore after being tardy four times an 8% deduction (one letter grade), will be assessed during the grading period.

## **STRIKE POLICY**

A tardy will be anything from the start of rehearsal until 10 minutes has passed. The first strike is 15 minutes of “band community service”. This will be helping clean up the band room, sorting literature in the library, etc. The second strike is 30 minutes of “band community service”. The third strike is missing the next scheduled performance and making up 60 minutes of “band community service”. Each strike after the three strikes, is a missed performance. We can't afford to have anyone gone, so be responsible and on time!

## **MARCHING SPOT CHECKS**

During marching band, students will be checked individually on their performance skills i.e. music memorization & preparation, marching skills, dance or flag routines. Students will receive a pass or fail evaluation. All section leaders will perform their spot checks for staff members. If you do not pass your spot check...you will need to schedule weekly lessons until you pass. Section members will perform these spot checks for their drum majors or staff. If you fail the spot check and have not passed by the first competition, you will not march with us at that event.

## **PERFORMANCE DATES (MARCHING/PEP/SYMPHONIC)**

Please refer to all marching band dates by clicking here:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1yrhGb\\_9qrZmtoqeQVop9JORKmFndZfha0ufF6x6j0bk/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1yrhGb_9qrZmtoqeQVop9JORKmFndZfha0ufF6x6j0bk/edit?usp=sharing)

Concert dates for 2024/2025 are:

Winter Concert - Thursday, December 12th

Spring Concert - Tuesday, March 11th

Large Group Contest in Chamberlain - Wednesday, March 26th

Pops Concert - Thursday, May 15th

***The attire for all concerts is concert dress black.*** This usually means boys are in black dress pants, white or black dress shirt and hopefully a black tie. Suit coats are optional but recommended. Girls are in black dresses. Please contact us if you need help financially with this request or if we could possibly find something for you in our department.

## **PEP BAND**

Pep band is an extension of the band class. We only have a few dates that we perform at basketball games, but the ENTIRE band is required to attend. The only excuse for missing pep band performances are other activities that are scheduled. Dates for 2025 are:

Tuesday, January 7th (Girls Basketball at the Corn Palace)

Tuesday, January 14th (Double Header at the Corn Palace)

Friday, January 17th (Double Header at the Corn Palace)

Tuesday, February 4th (Boys Basketball at the Corn Palace)

## **EQUIPMENT**

Only percussion students are allowed to play the percussion instruments. NO OTHER STUDENTS ARE ALLOWED TO PLAY THESE INSTRUMENTS unless prior approval from the director is given. If you are not a percussionist and you damage one of these instruments (accident or not), you will be liable for damages. Please respect all equipment in the band room.

## **POP/FOOD IN STORAGE ROOM AND BAND AREA**

There is at no time to be ANY pop/food in the storage room, band room or practice rooms....EVER! At times, we do allow pop, food, etc in the music theory classroom, SRB rooms and show choir practice rooms. There will be NO FOOD OR DRINK anywhere in area B (auditorium, black box theater, dressing rooms, loading dock, etc). Please help us keep the area clean and respect this rule.

## **SCHOOL OWNED INSTRUMENTS**

If you are using a school owned instrument (all-year, marching, etc), please keep the instrument in proper working condition. This includes giving the proper maintenance care to the instrument (cleaning, etc). If the instrument incurs any damage while under your care, you are financially responsible for all damages.

## **LETTERING**

All students enrolled in the band program are eligible to letter in the band program. The lettering system is on a points-basis. Points will be given for the following:

- 10 Points – For each pep band game attended
- 10 Points – For each private lesson taken from outside instructor
- 10 Points – For each quarter you are lead chair in your section
- 20 Points – For being selected as a section leader in marching band
- 50 Points – For being selected as a drum major
- 100 Points - For being a 4 year member in band
- 100 Points – For playing in musical pit
- 100 Points – For playing in show pit
- 100 Points – Auditioning for all-state band, all-state jazz band or all-state orchestra.
- 200 Points – Being selected for all-state band, all-state jazz band or all-state orchestra.

## **ENSEMBLE INFORMATION**

### **Symphonic Bands**

Symphonic band season starts immediately after the marching season is over. Symphonic bands give one Christmas concert, one spring concert and one pops concert. Concert band is primarily made up of 9th and 10th graders. Wind Ensemble is primarily made up of 11th and 12th graders. The director may occasionally move students up or down according to ability level and instrumentation concerns.

### **Jazz Band**

Jazz Band is an audition only group that rehearses before school from 7:00-8:00AM or at a mutually agreed upon time.

Instrumentation includes the following:

- Trumpets
- Trombones
- Saxophones
- Guitar and Bass Guitar
- Percussion
- Keyboard

Additional instruments will be added at director's discretion only. This group performs at concert events, competitions and at the annual Palace City Jazz Festival and Palace City Jam. All jazz band members need to be at rehearsal on time for every rehearsal. If any member is late or misses rehearsal more than 3 times, the director has the right to remove that student from the group or place them in a different ensemble. Just be on time!

### **Show Pit**

Show pit is a voluntary musical group that provides dynamic backup to the singer/dancers in Mitchell's Show Choir. This is an audition only group. The show pit travels with the show choir to all of the competitions/performances throughout the year. Rehearsals are at night and on the weekends. Instrumentation ranges depending on those trying out and the needs of the competition show. This group is directed by Mr. Van Peursem.

### **Musical Pit**

Musical pit is a voluntary musical group that provides dynamic backup to the singer/dancers in the school musical. This is an audition only group. Rehearsals are after school and usually start at the start of the school year and end at the completion of the musical. Instrumentation ranges depending on those trying out and the needs of the show. This group is also directed by Mr. Van Peursem.

### **Suspension/Violation of Training Rules**

All MHS band students must follow the training rules set forth in the school handbook. If any student violates the code of conduct (set forth in School Board Policy #1071), any position of leadership is automatically forfeited for that year. Home football games, symphonic band concerts and large/small solo performances are graded events and do not count towards suspension. The marching band competitions, jazz band performances, show pit performances and any all-state/honor band festivals all count towards the suspensions. The director and activities director reserve the right to make the final decision on what will constitute a suspension.

### **Travel /Transportation**

Students are encouraged to ride the bus TO AND FROM each competition in jazz and marching band. In the event a parent finds it necessary to drive a student to or from a band activity (where group transportation is provided) the following policy will apply: If your child is NOT riding home with us after an event - Parents ARE REQUIRED to sign my iPad. This will only be

done when the band is already loading the bus when we leave. If your child is not riding to the event, you must fill out a purple card and contact Mr. Aadland (activities director). This will be relayed to me as we create our busing lists. According to district policy, no one is allowed to travel with someone other than a parent unless approved ahead of time with Mr. Aadland.

## **GRADING POLICY**

### **FIRST QUARTER**

25% Marching Spot Checks  
25% Participation  
25% Performances  
25% Conduct/Attendance

### **SECOND QUARTER**

25% Performances  
25% 25% Participation  
25% Conduct/Attendance  
25% PlayingAssignments  
20% Semester Test (of sem. Grade)

### **THIRD QUARTER**

25% Performances  
25% Participation  
25% Conduct/Attendance  
25% PlayingAssignments

### **FOURTH QUARTER**

25% Performances  
25% Participation  
25% Conduct/Attendance  
25% PlayingAssignments  
20% Semester Test (of sem. Grade)

\*The MHS bands use the Mitchell High School grading scale.

## **EXTRA CREDIT**

All students will have the opportunity to receive extra credit by attending any musical event. The student must bring a copy of the program and write a half-page paper about the event. All papers must be turned in 3 days before the end of the quarter to receive credit for that quarter.

## **PARENT/STUDENT SIGNATURE DOCUMENT**

Please look this over and discuss it with your family. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me by email ([ryan.stahle@k12.sd.us](mailto:ryan.stahle@k12.sd.us)) or by phone at 995-7777. PARENTS - once you have read the syllabus and agree to all of its content, please follow link to electronically give your consent: <https://forms.gle/rQRyycvfw3DwE1t6>

If you have questions or concerns, please email me at [ryan.stahle@k12.sd.us](mailto:ryan.stahle@k12.sd.us) I am looking forward to another great year!

Mr. Stahle  
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