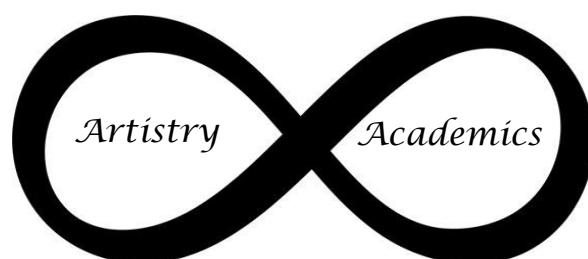


# Madison Academic Band Handbook



## A Guide For Parents and Students

*Mrs. Kristy White, Director of Bands*

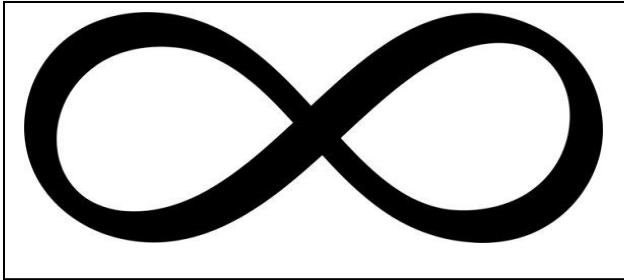
*Mrs. Frankie Spearman-Taylor, Assistant Principal*

*Mr. Chad Guthrie, Principal*

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## Madison Academic High School Band Motto and Mission Statement:



Just as the infinity symbol never ends, artistry and academics are never ending for the Madison Band Student. Our band students must be committed to artistic advancement and accomplishments in instrumental music while maintaining academic excellence.

Dear Students and Parents,

It is my honor and privilege to be your band director at MAHS. MAHS has a tradition and standard of excellence like no other school in our area. As you can see from the motto and mission statement, musical artistry and academic excellence go hand in hand and never end. My goal is to see students become life-long learners and music lovers. I want students in the MAHS Band to achieve their highest potential as they develop musicianship, confidence, cooperation, leadership, and a high standard of excellence in academics.

Musically, we will focus on tone/intonation, rhythm and proper technique of instrumental playing both individually and as an ensemble. I strongly believe that music is a part of a student's comprehensive education. I highly encourage private lessons and insist on focused, routine practice at home.

I look forward to a great year and years to come with this band program. I'm so excited to teach, challenge, and encourage these students in a positive atmosphere through music. Please feel free to contact me anytime through email [khwhite@jmcass.org](mailto:khwhite@jmcass.org) or phone 731-426-3635.

Sincerely,

Kristy White

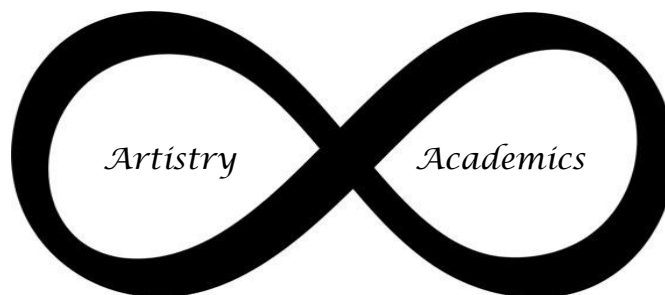
Director of Bands

Madison Academic High School

## Madison Academic Band Handbook of Policies and Procedures

### Handbook Outline:

- I. Classes
- II. Performances
- III. After School Rehearsals
- IV. Behavior
- V. Uniform/Concert Attire
- VI. School-Owned Instruments
- VII. Personal Instruments
- VIII. Chair Placements/Challenges
- IX. Awards/Lettering
- X. Honor Band
- XI. Fundraising/Band Boosters
- XII. Calendar of Events
- XIII. Information Form – *Please return***



## **Madison Academic Band Handbook of Policies and Procedures**

### **I. Classes**

#### **Fall 2016**

Block 1 – Advanced Band (10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade)

Block 2 – 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Band

Block 3 – Percussion Class (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade)

Block 4 – Planning

#### **Spring 2017**

Block 1 – Advanced Band (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Concert Band)

Block 2 – Jazz Band (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> jazz/percussion instruments by audition or director permission)

Block 3 – Percussion Class (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade)

Block 4 – Planning

All 9<sup>th</sup> grade students who successfully complete the first semester class for brass, woodwind or percussion will be placed in advanced band class for second semester. All 9<sup>th</sup> graders are expected to be in band both semesters. During 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, & 12<sup>th</sup> grades, students are allowed to drop one semester of band each year for the purpose of taking AP classes, electives, etc. All students are highly encouraged to audition for the All-West TN Honor Band. All students will complete a mock audition that will determine grades and chair placement.

Each class has a syllabus that contains information pertaining to course content, class requirements and grading. Students will receive a copy of the syllabus during the first week of class and should keep it during the semester for reference.

### **II. Performances**

As stated in the syllabus for each class, performances will be required outside of class each semester. Required performance events will count as a part of the student's test grade for the semester. In scheduling required performances, every effort is made to avoid conflicts with athletics and other school events as much as possible. If such conflicts occur, please make the band director, coach or other activity sponsor aware so a solution can be reached.

A band calendar will be attached. Please put these dates on your personal/family calendar. Occasional changes or additions may be made but adequate notification time will be given. Please keep in mind that band is a performing group and performances and after school rehearsals to prepare for these performances will be required.

### **III. After School Rehearsal**

Since band is divided into class blocks, it will be necessary to rehearse after school in order to have the entire group present at the same time. After school rehearsal schedules will be sent out prior to a performance. These rehearsals are required. After school rehearsals will begin at 2:30 and end at 4:00. Every effort must be made to avoid conflicts such as doctor/dentist/orthodontist appointments. If conflicts arise due to athletics or other school activities, the band director, coach/sponsor and student will communicate to work out a plan to ensure that student can effectively participate in events/activities.

At Madison, we believe students should be well rounded and involved in activities like band, choir, athletics, clubs and student government. However, students who are involved in more than one after-school activity are expected to be responsible to each and every team/activity and to work out the schedule to everyone's satisfaction. This is to be done by communicating with the teachers, coaches, and sponsors involved obtaining their permission and cooperation. Bottom line – Band is a class, like any other academic class, for which the student receives a grade. Other activities are extra-curricular, but we will try to work together so students may be involved in various activities.

### **IV. Behavior**

Band students are expected to exhibit appropriate behavior at all times: in class, around school, at public performances and on band trips.

**In Class:** Come into the room on time; go to your seat and prepare for class. Follow set procedures for setting up, rehearsing, and putting things away at the end of class. Class procedures and discipline policy will be outlined by the director and posted in the band room.

**Performance:** Come properly dressed at the designated time. Follow instructions for unpacking, warm up, and putting things away afterward.

**Trips:** Observe all bus and event rules; follow the schedule; be on time. If staying overnight in a hotel, observe curfew times, be considerate of other guests and respectful of hotel property and premises.

Everywhere: Work together to get things done. Do not expect someone else to take care of things. Always do your part with a positive attitude. Do what's right!!!! If you do this all the time, it's the only procedure you'll need to be successful in life.

## **V. Uniforms/Concert Attire**

For formal concert performances and concert festival, young men will wear the black uniform tuxedos that are provided by the Band Boosters. This consists of a black tuxedo jacket and pants, white dress shirt, cummerbund and bow tie. Young men will need to provide their own black socks and black dress shoes. Young ladies will wear a **below the knee or preferably floor length** solid black dress in a deep, dark black. Long skirts and black tops may also be worn. Dresses/tops should have sleeves. No sleeveless or spaghetti straps allowed. Black flats or no more than a 3 inch black heel should be worn with the dress. Minimal jewelry is allowed. The Band Program does have a few long black skirts and tops for ladies who may not have an appropriate black dress to wear. Most ladies however, prefer to purchase their own dresses for best fit.

The formal dress uniforms, tuxedos for men and concert dresses for the ladies who choose to use them, will be assigned for student use for the school year. Students are expected to take full responsibility for the care of the uniform and to return it cleaned and in good condition at the end of the school year.

For casual performances or field trips, all students will wear their Madison Band Polo and solid khaki school uniform bottoms. Nice shoes should also be worn.

## **VI. School-Owned Instruments**

Certain instruments are owned by the school and are assigned to students for their individual use. Although these are expensive instruments, no fee is charged for their use. However, students are expected to take full responsibility for the care and maintenance of the instrument, including the cost of normal repair of the instrument or any damage that may occur to the instrument while it is assigned to them. A contract/form will be completed by the student/parent/director for the use of the instrument. Students must provide their own mouthpieces, reeds, and other supplies such as cleaning supplies and valve oil. Percussion students must provide their own sticks and mallets.

## **VII. Personal Instruments**

- MAHS is not responsible for lost or stolen items.

- Maintenance and repair is the responsibility of individual students as upkeep will be necessary.
- Students will be responsible for all necessary accessories

**Brass** – greases, oils for slides and valves; **clean** mouthpiece and instrument

**Woodwinds** – plenty of reeds (3); **clean** mouthpiece and instrument

**Percussion** – sticks, mallets

### **VIII. Chair Placement/Challenges**

Chair placements determine where a student will sit in their sections. Knowing where they are in their sections helps with part distribution. Parts are distributed with several factors in mind, ability and importance of the part. From time to time 1st, 2nd, and 3rd chair musicians will find themselves playing "lower" parts to help strengthen the overall musicality of the upcoming performance. There will always be a first chair and a last chair, and if you didn't do well on your placement there are plenty of opportunities to improve your placement. **AND YOU ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO DO SO!!**

Chairs are determined through an audition process. Chair placements are done throughout the year. Sometimes they will be done with advanced preparation, these types of chair placements are generally graded. Some chair placements are done the same day (not-graded) with minimal preparation. Prepared chair placements let me know what a student can accomplish with study and the other gives me a good idea of their ability level without extended study.

Challenges are designed to correct chair placements and to give students an opportunity to practice (to correct mistakes) and challenge themselves to do better.

#### **Challenge rules:**

The Challenge system is intended as a way for students to move up their section's chair placement order. Students who feel they should be placed in a higher chair may request a challenge to determine any possible placement changes. All challenges are based upon the Director's approval, and the Director's decision is final. The system includes, but is not limited to the following.

1. Challenger announces the chair placement to the challengee.
2. Challenger then notifies the director of the request.
3. Challenge form is completed.
4. All challenges occur at the end of rehearsal periods. Most will occur in front of the entire band.
5. Director will notify the challenger and the challengee of the required music within 24 hours of the request. The challenge will happen within 5 days of the request.
6. Music for the challenge will be selected from the music in the folders or from handed out material. If a challenger defeats the challengee, they take their newly earned seat and all effected players move down one

chair. 7. The challenger must CLEARLY defeat the challengee for a change to be made. 8. A challenger must wait at least one week between a challenge and the issuance of another. 9. There will be no challenges during the two weeks prior to any performance. 10. The Director may delay or deny any challenge. The Director's decision is final.

## **IX. Awards/Lettering**

Awards and band letters will be given at the band banquet at the end of the school year. The **John Phillip Sousa Award** is the highest band award given to a senior for outstanding achievement in instrumental music and for the high qualities of conduct that school instrumental music requires. The **Louis Armstrong Jazz Award** is awarded to a senior for outstanding musical achievement and dedication to the jazz band program. Four **Director Awards** will be given (one per class) for students who exemplify outstanding musicianship, leadership, discipline and dedication to the band program.

Letters and yearly lettering pins will also be given out at the band banquet. Students may earn letters in band by participating in specified required activities and by earning points for optional activities. Students must earn a total of 100 points in required and optional activities. The requirements for lettering are outlined below and will be posted in the band room. Students who wish to do so may purchase school jackets on which the award letter can be worn.

**Required Activities:** Talent Show, School Program Performances, Winter Concert, Concert Festival, Spring Concert (50 points)

**Optional Activities:** Selection for All-West Band/Orchestra (includes alternates) – 20 points; Selection for All-State Band/Orchestra (includes alternates) – 30 points; Selection for College Honor Band – 10 points; “I” or “II” rating at Solo and Ensemble – 10/5 points; Private lessons on your instrument per semester – 10 points; Regular participation in a community performing group such as Youth Symphony, Community Band, Church Orchestra/Band, etc. – 15 points; Attending outside of school, director approved, concerts such as symphony concerts, youth symphony concerts, music concerts at local colleges. (Must turn in concert program) – 5 points each; director approved optional activities or performances – up to 20 points.

## **X. Honor Bands**

Honor Bands are an awesome opportunity for students to play with other talented musicians from across our state. Each year, band students from high schools all over West TN, compete for places in the All-West and All-State Bands. To be chosen as a member of these groups is considered a very high honor. The selection reflects on a student's playing skills and



performance level. We highly encourage all of our Madison Band Students to audition for the All-West TN Honor Band. These tryouts prompt students toward individual accomplishment, plus the practice and rehearsal improves the playing skills and the individual performance level, which in turn, improves the band. Other honor band opportunities will occur in the spring semester and allow student to also visit college campuses to perform in an honor band setting.

Much of our All-West Honor Band is paid for by our band budget. However, students who are accepted to various other honor bands will be expected to pay part, or in some cases, all of the cost of these activities. Such costs could include hotel rooms for overnight trips, registration fees, meals and other miscellaneous expenses associated with these events. These other honor bands are optional but are also a great way to visit colleges. Detailed information about the cost of each event will be sent home as soon as it is available.

## **XI. Fundraising/Band Boosters**

Band is an expensive activity. Instruments, equipment, uniforms and travel all cost a great deal of money. We have an active group of parents who work continually to supplement the band budget and to help provide the band with chaperones for travel and assistance with various performances and activities.

There are many areas in which parents can get involved in the band program. Each year we vote on Band Booster Officers (President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer). We also need volunteers for various areas such as uniforms, fundraising, hospitality, PR/communication, chaperones, decorations, concerts and our talent show.

The Band Boosters will meet at various times during the year usually in conjunction with an event or performance. Parents will be invited via email to these meetings. I like to do a great deal of communication via email so please make sure your email address stays updated for band information.

## **XII. Calendar of Events:**

Events in plain, black type pertain to all band students. *Events in italics, gray type are suggested/optional for band students.*

<i>August 13</i>	<i>Jackson Symphony Youth Orchestra Auditions</i>	<i>Union</i>
<i>August 14</i>	<i>Jackson Symphony Youth Orchestra Auditions</i>	<i>Union</i>
August 18-29	Krispy Kreme Donut Fundraiser Begins	
<i>August 27</i>	<i>Starlight Symphony (JSO)</i>	<i>First Presbyterian Church</i>
September 1	Parent Teacher Conference 12:00-6:00	MAHS
September 1	Krispy Kreme Delivery/Pick Up 3:00-6:00	MAHS cafeteria
September 1	Band Booster Ice Cream Social 5:30	
	And Booster Meeting after PTC 6:00	MAHS cafeteria
<i>September 17</i>	<i>JSO Opening Night/violin/orchestra</i>	<i>First Baptist Church</i>
<i>September 24</i>	<i>WTSBOA Marching Festival</i>	<i>Liberty High School</i>
October 3-7	Fall Break	
<i>October 8</i>	<i>JSO Swing/jazz</i>	<i>Carl Perkins Civic Center</i>
<i>October 9</i>	<i>JSO Percussion Ensemble</i>	<i>St. Luke's Episcopal Church</i>
October 13	MAHS Talent Show	MAHS auditorium
October 31	Band Fundraiser (cookie/popcorn) begins	
<i>November 5</i>	<i>JSO piano/orchestra</i>	<i>Carl Perkins Civic Center</i>
<i>November 5</i>	<i>Youth Orchestra Performs w JSO</i>	<i>Carl Perkins Civic Center</i>
November 10	Veteran's Day Program	MAHS auditorium
November 19	All-West Orchestra Auditions	Briarcrest/Memphis
November 23-25	Thanksgiving Break	
<i>December 3</i>	<i>JSO Annual Holiday Concert</i>	<i>Carl Perkins Civic Center</i>
<i>December 4</i>	<i>JSO Youth Orchestra Concert</i>	<i>TBD</i>
December 8	Winter Concert 6:00	MAHS auditorium
December 8	Band social/parent meeting	MAHS cafeteria
	After concert 8:00	

December 19-January 3	Christmas Break	
TBD Jan/Feb	Homecoming Basketball Game	Tigrett Gym
January 14	All-West Auditions	Arlington HS/Memphis
January 16	Martin Luther King Holiday	
<i>January 22</i>	<i>JSO Woodwind Ensemble</i>	<i>St. Luke's Episcopal Church</i>
Jan/Feb	Other Honor Band Opportunities	
February 9-11	All-West Band Clinic/Concerts	Cannon Center, Memphis
<i>February 11</i>	<i>JSO Valentine Concert</i>	<i>Carl Perkins Civic Center</i>
February 16	Parent Teacher Conference 12:00-6:00	MAHS
February 20	President's Day	
March 4	Solo and Ensemble	Jackson North Side
<i>March 11</i>	<i>JSO Classical Concert/Clarinet/Orch</i>	<i>Carl Perkins Civic Center</i>
<i>March 11</i>	<i>Youth Orchestra w JSO</i>	<i>Carl Perkins Civic Center</i>
<i>March 12</i>	<i>JSO String Quartet</i>	<i>St. Luke's Episcopal Church</i>
March 13-17	Spring Break	
March 24	Concert Festival	Liberty High School
April 5-8	All-State Clinic/Convention/Concerts	Opryland Hotel, Nashville
<i>April 8</i>	<i>JSO Concert</i>	<i>Carl Perkins Civic Center</i>
April 27	Band Spring Concert	MAHS auditorium
<i>April 30</i>	<i>JSO Youth Orchestra Concert</i>	<i>TBD</i>
<i>May 5</i>	<i>JSO Brass Quintet</i>	<i>St. Luke's Episcopal Church</i>
May ?	Graduation	MAHS auditorium

**\*\*Performances and after school rehearsals will be planned in advance and dates will be sent out in memo form to the students and email to parents. After school rehearsals and performances are required and a grade will be assigned. Please see handbook for policy.**