

MODESTO HIGH SCHOOL  
INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC DEPARTMENT  
PROGRAM OVERVIEW, RULES, EXPECTATIONS,  
BEHAVIOR, STUDENT LEADERSHIP &  
FUNDRAISING ENDEAVORS



2014-15  
HANDBOOK

Dear Modesto High School Instrumental Musicians, Guard Students, and Parents,

Welcome to the new school year and the Modesto High Instrumental Music Program. The MHS staff is looking forward to an exciting year of activities and quality music education for our Band, Orchestra, Guard, and Percussion students.

Please find included with this booklet our grading and behavior policies. This packet is your Modesto High Instrumental Music/Guard Handbook, and should be saved all year as your contract with the Modesto High School Instrumental Music/Guard program.

Please review this packet together, and return the signed Modesto High Instrumental Music/Guard Parent and Student Contracts found on the last pages by Tuesday, August 19, 2014. These Contracts are the first graded assignment for the 2014-15 school year.

Once again, welcome to the Modesto High Instrumental Music/Guard program! If you have any questions please feel free to contact Mr. Cover by e-mail or phone, or by stopping by the Instrumental Music Department Office.

**Mr. Cover**

**Phone: (209) 576-4427 – office**

**Email: [cover.m@monet.k12.ca.us](mailto:cover.m@monet.k12.ca.us)**

**Website: [www.mohimusic.org](http://www.mohimusic.org)**

Below you will see the different sections that add up to the determining factor for your grade.

|                  |                   |                   |                 |              |
|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| <b>Every day</b> | <b>Attendance</b> | <b>Part Tests</b> | <b>Homework</b> | <b>Total</b> |
| <b>30%</b>       | <b>40%</b>        | <b>25%</b>        | <b>5%</b>       | <b>100%</b>  |

**Every day:** being prepared every day is defined as the following – having a pencil; having music; having your water jug at rehearsal; having your drill or folder; having your instrument; having practiced at home. Students have the opportunity to earn 100 points at each rehearsal or class meeting.

- Not having a pencil = -10 Points
- Not having Music = -20 Points
- Daily Class Tardy = -10 Points
- No Instrument = -45 Points
- Not prepared to rehearse/music not learned = -15 Points

**Attendance:** Music is a performance oriented activity and students will earn points by attending all events, rehearsals, competitions, concerts, etc. Points possible will depend on the amount of rehearsals and performances which take place within any given semester.

- Football Game = 100 Points
- Rehearsal outside of the school day = 50 Points
- Concert/Competition = 200 Points
- Tardy to any of the above = -25 Points

**Part Tests:** Students will be given multiple part tests throughout the semester. Part tests will include scales, concert band music, method book work, marching band music, pep band music and other passages related to music being rehearsed in class or for homework. Total points will depend on the amount of tests that are assigned. Each test is worth 50 points.

**Homework:** Students will be expected to practice at home so that they are prepared for rehearsals.

### **Missing Other Classes & Make-Up**

At times, band may cause you to miss other classes. When band is the reason for your absence from another class, you may be allowed to use the band period immediately following the day we missed class to make up a test/study session for that class. Please be sure to check with Mr. Cover before missing band class for make-up due to any absence from band.

### **PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

1. The Modesto program strives to create a **positive atmosphere** where young people can grow and mature into **responsible** young adults; **succeeding** both as individuals and as members of a tightly-woven group. Since 1883, Modesto has developed a long-standing reputation for **high standards** and **excellence** in our music programs.

2. **Marching Band & Concert Band** meets during 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and/or 9<sup>th</sup> periods. From August to the middle of October, we primarily rehearse the marching field show and football pep music. In October, the focus is almost 100% concert band/wind ensemble music. **All students** enrolled in class during 1st semester are expected to participate in Marching Band. Because of the huge physical effort that goes into a marching band field show, marching band students receive 2.5 units of P.E. credit. To get P.E. credit, students must be enrolled in Band or Color Guard. Students who take the band class but do not participate in marching band will not receive P.E. credit. No exceptions.

3. **Color Guard** will be scheduled as a 3<sup>rd</sup> and/or 9<sup>th</sup> period for this school year. During marching season, the guard rehearses their dance and choreography for the field show. After the marching season, Winter Guard begins and students focus on their competitive indoor show. There is additional information handed out specific to Winter Guard later in the fall. Color Guard students also receive 2.5 units P.E. Credit for the Fall AND Winter season (total 5.0 units of P.E. credit for the year).

4. **Orchestra** will meet 7<sup>th</sup> and/or 8<sup>th</sup> periods. We will be working on orchestral music and fundamentals throughout the school year. Rehearsals will culminate with Winter, Spring, and Festival Concerts. Orchestra students are welcomed and encouraged to participate in other ensembles. See the Director for information.

5. **Winter Percussion** does not meet during the school day, but keeps a similar rehearsal schedule as the marching band season from early December until early April. The Winter Percussion is open to all members of the music program by approval of the Mr. Cover and staff. We are working on finding a way for Winter Percussion students to also receive 2.5 units of P.E. credit for winter season. More information to come.

5. **Small ensembles** do not meet during the school day, but consist of students from any part of the band or orchestra programs. The Director will approve the ensembles, and they will meet at agreed upon times TBA. Small ensembles will have the opportunity to perform at Solo and Ensemble festivals, as well as during concerts throughout the year.

6. At this time, due to low enrollment and budget cuts, the **jazz band** will again be inactive for the 2014-15 school year. We do plan to bring these ensembles back once interest and enrollment improves. We encourage you to meet with the counseling office or Administration if you have questions or concerns about any class offerings at Modesto.

## COMMITMENT

As with any group activity, **solid commitment** is expected of every member, and we feel it's an important core value you will learn in the program. Here is an idea of what is expected of you:

1. **Positive attitude** and willingness to learn; ***"Attitude is everything; pick a good one"***
2. **Attendance** at all rehearsals and competitions; be prepared to set aside *some* Saturdays from mid-August through mid-November (marching band/guard members see later in handbook for specific weekends off).
3. **Fundraising participation** and/or **donations** to keep the program financially solvent;
4. **Individual practice** and preparation for each rehearsal (a minimum of 30 minutes a day on non-rehearsal days is recommended).

## EDUCATIONAL STAFF

- Kevin Apicella – assistant Band Director, Battery, Visual
- Kevin Marin – Brass and Visual
- Thu Powell – Front Ensemble
- Arturo Espinosa – Color Guard

## COMMUNICATION

1. Our website, [www.mohimusic.org](http://www.mohimusic.org), is the primary source of information about the program, both current and historical. Please take a moment to visit the site and learn how the information is organized. It is undergoing some updating but if you don't find what you are looking for, please email Mr. Cover and ask.
2. The **Calendar** will be available online. Dates and times are subject to change, but we will notify you through the weekly email of any important changes. Mr. Cover also writes upcoming dates on the white board in the band room which will appear on the website as updates are made!
3. The **Weekly Email** should be sent each Monday or Tuesday throughout the year, and details upcoming events, announcements, fundraising and other important information. There will be a Director's email and a separate Fundraising email each week. Make sure your email address is on file with Mr. Cover.
4. **Itineraries** - During the week before an event or competition, students will receive detailed itineraries including report times, performance times and other important information. These itineraries are also available on the website.

## PRIVATE LESSONS

1. While not required, we HIGHLY encourage all students to take private lessons, especially if newer to their instrument.
2. Our staff is made up of highly qualified musicians who can be available for lessons.
3. We are also happy to recommend a great teacher outside of the Modesto High program.
4. The better you are as an individual on your instrument, the more you will be able to contribute to the program.
5. If money is a concern, please talk to the Director or staff, as often times we are able to work out discounts or free lessons. Just ask!

## PERFORMANCES

### 1. Performance Policies

- a. ALL Performances are mandatory!
- b. If you have an **unexcused absence** the week of a performance, you may not be allowed to perform.
- c. Parents must communicate *at least 1 month in advance* of any performance conflict - check the calendar! Must be a very serious and unavoidable conflict to be excused.
- d. At the discretion of the Director and Administration, students may be asked to meet academic requirements to be eligible to perform. Eligibility is at the discretion of Director and Administration.

### 2. Fall Field Show

- a. We **compete** in the Western Band Association (WBA) in California.
- b. All **parents** are highly encouraged to **attend** and **support** the students at our field show competitions as a volunteer and/or member of our cheering section.
- c. We will also perform at a few **home football games** (see calendar). Sometimes we perform half-time and other times we just play pep tunes in the stands. Pep music is rehearsed in class and preparation is expected. Usually 4 to 6 games a year, depends on our football conference schedule.

### 3. Winter Season

- a. The **Winter Guard** (WG) and **Winter Percussion** (WP) participate in the local Central Valley Guard and Percussion Circuit (CVGPC).

**4. Concert Performances** These events involve the Concert Band and Orchestra classes as well as any small ensembles who wish to perform (by approval of the Director).

- a. The **Winter Concert** will be: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2014 at 6:30pm.
- b. The **Spring Concert** will be: TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 2015 at 6:30pm.
- c. The **Pops Concert** will be: TUESDAY, MAY 15, 2015 at 6:30pm.
- d. The **Graduation** will be: THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2015 TBA

### 5. Concert Attire - MEN:

**"Concert Dress"** – White dress shirt, black tie, black slacks, black dress socks, black dress shoes No tennis shoes or flip-flops!

### 6. Concert Attire - WOMEN:

**"Concert Dress"** – A nice black dress of appropriate length and coverage (*consistent with the MCS Student Conduct Code*), or black blouse and black slacks, black shoes. No tennis shoes or flip flops!

***Students who do not follow the dress outlined above  
will risk losing points for the performance.***

## EXTRA THINGS YOU WILL NEED

### 1. All Musicians

- a. **Metronome** available at Gottschalks Music Center, Ingram & Brauns Musik Shoppe, Guitar Center, and various online stores.
- b. **White T-Shirt** (clean, fitted - not baggy, crew neck, for ensemble rehearsals and under your uniform)
  1. We recommend an athletic compression shirt (i.e. Under Armor, Nike, Eastbay.com has compression shirts at good prices)

### 2. Wind Players

- a. **Tuners** are recommended
- b. Sax and Clarinet - 3 good reeds at all times and a reed guard to keep them in. Also an instrument swab. Cleaning your instrument after every use is necessary to avoid costly repairs during the season.
- c. Flutes - cleaning rag and rod. Cleaning your instrument after every use is necessary to avoid costly repairs during the season.
- d. Brass - Valve Oil, mutes for concert season, polishing cloth and paste.

### 3. Percussionists

- a. practice pad.
- b. some sticks. See Mr. Cover or staff if you need something and aren't sure where to go. Other sticks will be loaned to you and you are responsible for their care and return.

### 4. Color Guard equipment

- a. will be provided by the band boosters for the year and checked out to each member. You will be responsible to return the equipment in good condition.

## LOCKERS

1. NO BAND OR GUARD PROPERTY is EVER to be taken without signing it out properly from Mr. Cover!
2. To **borrow** any instrument(s) or equipment, a check-out form must be filled out in the band office with parent signature and serial #(s) of the instrument(s) or equipment.
3. When **returning**, there is also a process. See Mr. Cover if you have questions.
4. Our **instrument lockers** are meant to be for instruments. We allow students to use band lockers to hold their books in between classes, as long as students do not trash the locker areas. Below are the guidelines to keeping these special locker privileges:
  - a. There should never be any food or drinks left overnight inside lockers.
  - b. Lockers must be locked when not in use! Remember your combination: put it in your cell phone, write it on a binder, or keep it in your backpack!
  - c. Throw away all trash in the trash can and all recyclables in the recycle bin!
  - d. Lockers will be assigned according to instrument. For example: Flutes and Clarinets will get the small lockers. Marching baritones will get a square locker. Students will no longer be able to choose their own locker.
  - e. Do not open or attempt to open another student's locker without their knowledge AND approval. If this rule is broken, the student will be given a referral.
  - f. If students cannot follow these guidelines, then all privileges will be lost for instrument lockers. The lockers are in the Room 1 and will be available for access when Mr. Cover is on campus and/or the room is unlocked for student use.
5. The band room will may not be open during lunch. Plan accordingly to have all your belongings with you from your band locker. Custodians will not open the room for you during or after school.

6. We strongly recommend you use your school issued locker to hold all your books, that way you have guaranteed access to your materials after school.

### **LOST AND FOUND/PERSONAL ITEMS**

1. Due to the large amount of activity going on in hallway and at events, we always end up with misplaced personal belongings. When found, these are eventually brought to the band office. Always check here if you have lost something.

2. Every Friday, the lost and found will be taken to the Student Body Office (SBO). The SBO will end up donating items from lost and found to Goodwill.

3. **TEXTBOOKS:** Each day, any textbooks left out in plain sight will be returned to the library/bookroom by Teacher Assistants (TA's). Part of the TA's daily routine is to take any textbooks to the library whether or not the student name is on them, or homework is inside.

4. Room 1 is not your personal space but a shared space! We need to take care of our facility and students will need to take care of their belongings. Leave textbooks in lockers if you do not need them, even if it is only for one period.

### **RULES – CONDUCT, RESPECT, ACADEMICS**

The Modesto High School Instrumental Music/Guard program is an all-inclusive program and we always leave our doors open to potential new members. The pride and integrity of the Modesto High School Instrumental Music program is of utmost importance and the program must protect these ideals. In order to maintain the pride and integrity of the program, there are times when students must be dismissed from the program. Obviously, this is a last resort but the integrity of the program is too important to be sacrificed by any one student and their actions/choices.

1. Each student must maintain high levels of **behavior standards**.

2. Ensure that you know and understand the Director's and instructional staff's **expectations** for the year. If you don't know their expectations, you can't meet or exceed them.

3. **Codes of conduct** and rules for **Modesto City Schools** and Modesto High School apply at all times.

4. Treat fellow students, instructional staff, support staff, parents, boosters, board members, other groups, and all fans with **respect**. They will respond to you much more positively.

5. When at **performances** or program activities (in or out of uniform!), always behave in a mature and professional manner.

6. **Negativity** will not help us be as successful as we hope to be, and is highly discouraged.

7. If you are having **problems** with other members in the group, please talk to an instructor or the Director.

8. You are a **role model** for other members. Please remember that at all times. Other members will act and behave as they see you act and behave.

9. Finally, you **represent** the Modesto High Band, Orchestra, & Guard, Modesto High School, and Modesto City Schools at all times. It does not matter where you are – rehearsal, performance, on the Internet, fundraising, etc.

What you say, write, and do, as a member of the Modesto Band, Orchestra, or Guard will be viewed as the opinions, thoughts and actions of the entire organization. Make all of your actions with Pride, Class and Integrity!

**The following actions may lead to dismissal from the Band/Orchestra /Percussion/Color Guard Program:**

1. Swearing: Any swearing will NOT be tolerated, whether in the class room, on the marching band field, at winter guard/winter percussion practice, any trip, football game, marching band competition, in uniform or out of uniform and any time you are representing the Modesto High School Instrumental Music Program.
2. Talking Back to Staff/Chaperones/Volunteers (Parent/Non-Parent): Talking Back will NOT be tolerated as respect for others will always be a top priority for the Modesto High School programs.
3. Talking Down to Other Students: In order to build a team/family it is very important that all members of the program have the utmost respect for one another. In order to ensure good team moral talking down to other students will NOT be tolerated.
4. Bullying/Cyber Bullying: Bullying whether in person or via on-line will NOT be tolerated. There is no room for anyone in the Modesto High School programs to enforce their personal beliefs or thoughts on anyone else. This includes mandated things from your fellow students or making them do things unwillingly through guilt or fear!
5. Online Forums/Social Networks: This includes the use of any e-mail/facebook/twitter or on-line forums to discuss Instrumental Music students at Modesto High School or any other program. While our teachers will not be monitoring your accounts, there are always students who can see what you are doing and your actions will NOT be tolerated.
6. Stealing: Under no circumstances will stealing be tolerated. Additionally, many times the Modesto High Parent Boosters have food/drink stored in the band room and we trust that our students will respect those items that do not belong to them.
7. Unsupervised Band Room Activity: The band room is only to be used during times in which members of the staff are present. Students are NOT to be in the band room alone even if a door is left unlocked.
8. Defacing School Property: The band room and everything in it is worth a large amount of money. In order to maintain our equipment for future years we must protect all equipment. Defacing (writing on stands, walls, breaking items) school property is NOT okay and students caught doing so will be will be subject to band and district policies and will be responsible for replacing equipment (meaning – student/family will be financially responsible for damaged items) as well as any actions imposed by the administration.

**Each action will go through a 3 step process before the student will be removed from any program within the Modesto High School Instrumental Music/Guard program:**

1. Violation #1 – Student will be given after school detention from the instrumental music program and parent will be contacted about the issue via phone call and e-mail.
2. Violation #2 – Student will be given Saturday school from the instrumental music program and a parent/student/teacher/administrator meeting will be scheduled before the student can attend any other practices or performances.....keep in mind that a portion of the student grade depends on attendance, so missing practices or performances will add up to a loss of points very quickly! Once the parents/student/teacher/administrator has taken place the parents/students will be notified during the meeting of the probationary period for that student.

3. Violation #3 – Parents/student/teacher/administrator/counselor will meet and change the schedule of the student to remove them from the program. Group will also discuss the possibility of re-entering the instrumental music program in the future.

**Please keep in mind that while these policies are that of the Modesto High School Instrumental Music Program, there are other Modesto City Schools policies that can supersede those above. The Policies above will be implemented by the Modesto High School Instrumental Music Program and do NOT replace the consequences that you may receive from the district.**

## **RULES – ATTENDANCE**

1. Be **present and on time** to all rehearsals. Arrive at rehearsals early, prepared and ready to rehearse.

**2. Please schedule appointments during NON-rehearsal/performance dates and times.**

3. Unlike a sports team with reserves and “bench warmers”, you are the only one who does what you do for the program. Poor attendance is a waste of your staff and fellow members’ valuable time.

4. If you **don’t have a ride**, call your section leader or a staff member in advance to arrange to be picked up. Not having a ride is NOT an excuse for being late. You are responsible for getting yourself to rehearsal by whatever means necessary.

5. **Excessive** tardiness and/or absence will result in removal from the ensemble at the discretion of the Director and staff.

6. Missing rehearsal during the week of a **competition** runs the risk of not being allowed to perform. This will be decided at the discretion of the Director and staff. You missing a performance docks your grade and loses us points at a competition.

7. In an **emergency**, you must call the band office at 576-4427 to be excused from ANY event - rehearsal, sectional, or performance. SERIOUS emergencies only.

8. **Excuse** Forms:

a. Forms can be found just outside the band office in the hallway.

b. Forms must be filled out correctly.

c. Forms must be turned in to Mr. Cover *no later than (1) week in advance* to be considered (not counting performances - these must be 1 month notice minimum - see below).

d. *Not all absences will be excused.* Generally, we follow the same criteria the Attendance Office uses. The following are NOT approved reasons to be tardy or absent:

-doctor or dental appointment (do NOT schedule these during rehearsal);

-family parties, trips, vacations, dinners, lunches, Uncle “Bob” or Aunt “Patty” visiting;

-have to “go to my Mom’s” or “go to my Dad’s” place (plan accordingly);

-minor sicknesses (stay healthy and get plenty of sleep and proper nutrition);

-too much homework (plan your time accordingly and limit TV and video games!)

-didn’t know about it (calendar is published online and weekly emails sent every Monday/Tuesday AND you are agreeing to this schedule up front).

e. If a form is not approved, then it is agreed by the parents and the student that the student is expected to be at the said rehearsal or performance (reminder: marching band is a class and all rehearsals and performances are mandatory and a part of your grade).

- f. If a student must miss a rehearsal and it is less than a week notice, only a meeting with the parent/guardian and band director is acceptable. This does not automatically mean the student will be excused from the event.
- g. Parents must communicate at least 1 month in advance of any performance conflict - check the calendar and let us know ASAP! Must be a very serious and unavoidable conflict to be excused.

## **RULES – PREPARATION AND REHEARSAL CONDUCT**

1. Always come **prepared** to rehearsals and performances - have everything you need and have your music and choreography rehearsed and memorized where required.
2. Be **courteous** and **respectful** at all times. **Talking or playing during instruction is prohibited.**
3. Never share **water jugs** at marching rehearsals. This is the way many illnesses are passed from member to member.
4. Just like an academic class, if you have to miss a rehearsal, you are still **responsible** for getting missed choreography, music, and/or drill.
5. Bring a *pencil, music, your instrument or equipment, and drill to class and every rehearsal* if you are a band or percussion member. Drill and equipment if you are in color guard. Orchestra members – a pencil, music, and your instrument. **HAVE THESE THINGS AT ALL TIMES!**
6. **Pay attention** (with eye contact!) and do not talk while an instructor, section leader, or staff is talking to you or the ensemble.
7. Always wear **proper attire**. NO DENIM at marching rehearsals.
8. Always have your **dot book** with you at marching rehearsals.
9. Keep the front ensemble area clear on the field and walk “around” all electronic cables and equipment.
10. Check for **personal belongings** before leaving a rehearsal area, and make sure all equipment is put away properly.
11. Do not leave personal belongings unattended where they could be stolen, lost or damaged.
12. **Stay healthy** - avoid dangerous sports or activities that may cause injury. Drink plenty of water, cut out soda and sugary drinks, and get plenty of sleep. Caffeine is not a substitute for sleep. Remember that professional performers and athletes go to great lengths to maintain their health in order to be their best and be competitive!
13. **Chain of Command:**
  - (1) Director of Bands
  - (2) Assistant Director / Color Guard Director
  - (3) Staff Members
  - (4) Alumni Interns
  - (5) Drum Major
  - (6) Section Leaders & Band Council

14. During rehearsals, **section leaders** rank above other members of their section who are in **band council**. Ranking above someone does NOT give you the right to raise your voice or **disrespect** another person. Remember, we are all a family!

15. If you have a **question** or a **concern** that you feel is minor (not an emergency), always go to the person one level up from you on the chain of command.

16. If someone above you on the chain of command does something or acts in a way you feel is **inappropriate** or against the rules, always go to the next person above them with your concern.

17. **Ranking authority** while traveling:

- (1) Director & Bus Driver
- (2) Chaperones & Parent Volunteers
- (3) Drum Major
- (4) Section Leaders & Band Council

#### **RULES – BAND ROOM (ROOM 1) AND ALL OTHER FACILITIES:**

1. No student is allowed in **Room 1** at any time without the approval and supervision of staff or the Director. Approval will not be given to non-band/guard/orchestra/piano students.
2. Everyone is responsible for keeping the **rooms clean** at all times. Do not leave personal belongings out in the band room at ANY TIME.
3. No **food or drinks** are allowed in the band room, except water.
4. Marching **drums** should only be played outside in order to keep the band room available for front ensemble members or others to practice.
5. We always leave a **rehearsal facility cleaner** than we found it. This means picking up ALL garbage, sweeping the floor, and putting back chairs and other items how they were when we came in. This includes ALL facilities on and off campus that we use. Sections will be assigned clean up on a rotating basis by the Director or Drum Major.
6. Students must get **permission** before entering the **music library** or **booster/uniform room**.
7. Students must get **permission** to write on the white board, play the stereo, videos, or piano. The Black Piano is only to be used by Mr. Cover for teaching and for performances.
8. There is **NO FOOD OR DRINK** (bottled water is acceptable, unless the bottles are not cleaned up) in the band room, Dungeon, practice rooms, or main hallway. NO EXCEPTIONS. Violation of this rule will result in disciplinary action.
9. **Practicing** is always strongly encouraged! However, all **practice rooms** are by permission only, and must be kept clean. Rules will be posted on the doors.

#### **RULES – BAND OFFICE**

1. No one is allowed in the **Band Office** at any time without the approval and supervision of the Director.
2. Students must **knock** and **wait for approval** before entering the office.
3. **Phone** in the Band Office may be used with permission from staff or Director.
4. The **copier** (when I get one...) is only for band purposes, by permission from the Director.
5. The Band Office is for the Director and staff to work. No excess noise or “hanging out” is permitted.

#### **RULES – INSTRUMENTS AND EQUIPMENT**

1. You must get **approval** from the Director before using any **equipment** not assigned to you.
2. Treat equipment with proper care. You are responsible for any damage caused due to mistreatment.
3. **Take care of all equipment** whether it belongs to you or Modesto City Schools.
4. Keep **water** in a closed bottle and away from equipment, especially anything electronic.
5. Keep all equipment **covered** or in **proper case/cabinet/locker** in between rehearsals.
6. **Notify** staff or Director immediately if something breaks or is not functioning properly.

7. When we **travel**, all equipment must be secured, protected, covered, and loaded properly.
8. **Front Ensemble** - in between rehearsals keep all mallet bags put away, not hanging on the instruments.
9. Remember that all equipment is very **expensive**, and we have an extremely limited budget. Please help us keep everything in excellent condition by following these guidelines!
10. No items are to be placed "on" the percussion equipment at any time.
11. **Cases** go in the student's locker at all times including rehearsals, performances, and when not in use.

## RULES – MUSIC

1. Students are **responsible** for the condition of their music.
2. Always have a **pencil** for rehearsals and class.
3. All marching music and exercises must be kept in **binders** with sheet protectors.
4. **Concert music** is to be stored in black folders.
5. The **music library** is off limits to all students except for band librarians.
6. The **first copy** of music is free. **Additional** copies are available at \$.25 per page.
7. **All musicians** in the band (including percussionists) will need a binder for their music and other materials.
8. Any **binders** left out will be kept in the band office and students will lose points.
9. Always keep your **binder** with you, in your locker, or in a designated slot in the band room.

## FUNDRAISING

The Modesto High School Instrumental Program will engage in some rigorous fundraising activities throughout the year. You will be expected to contribute to our endeavor of covering the cost of our Marching Band season, the Winter Guard and Percussion season, Concert Festivals, and all related travel, as well as raising additional funds for the maintenance and replacement of MHS instruments. The monies raised from fundraising activities will be credited to an account held by the Booster Club and is subject to all state laws. This money will be used only for the direct benefit of the Instrumental Music Program.

Our goal for the Fall of 2014 is that each student attempt to fundraise \$500. This is their "shared amount" based on what it is expected that we will need to pay as a group to: hire a staff, pay entry fees, pay for instrument and equipment maintenance/repairs, new equipment purchases, and to pay for transportation and any lodging associated with our Fall program. There are no required fees for participation, but if we do not raise enough money, significant cuts to staff and program offerings will be made as this is an extra-curricular activity and not mandated we do through the District.

This amount can be satisfied through cash donations or sponsorships from businesses or individuals, and through fundraising. There will be enough fundraising opportunities for students to participate in to reach their estimated shared amount.

Voluntary donations, contributions, and fundraising by students and their families to support District and school site programs are always permissible, so long as donations, contributions, and fundraising activities are not made mandatory for students and their families.

Exception: In certain instances, a student may be required to attend/participate in a fundraising event or activity to support a team or program, such as to attend a spaghetti feed or car wash to support an athletic team or program on which the student participates. Such participation does not require or obligate a student or family to make a monetary contribution to the program, and merely requires the student to participate in a team event such as practice.

Ed. Code, §§ 41032, 41037; Ed. Code, § 35160 et seq.; Ed. Code, §§ 51520, 51521; 81 Ops. Cal. Atty. Gen. 153 (1998)

## STUDENT LEADERSHIP

See the webpage for information on becoming a part of our Leadership team.  
[www.mohimusic.org](http://www.mohimusic.org)

# Modesto High School Band & Color Guard - 2014-15 Parent/Guardian Contract

I, \_\_\_\_\_, agree to the following:  
(Please *print* parent/guardian name)

- 1. Support:** I am in full support of my student's participation in the Modesto High Band & Color Guard. I understand and appreciate the tremendous benefits my son/daughter will receive through education in the performing arts. *I have read the handbook carefully* and agree to help my son/daughter abide by all expectations.
- 2. Schedule & Attendance:** I have read all dates on the calendar and marked them on our family calendar to avoid conflicts. I am committed to providing transportation support for all events which apply to my son/daughter. I will do everything I can to communicate with my son/daughter to avoid absence, and will make sure they turn in an *Excuse Form* in advance of any unavoidable conflict.
- 3. Financial:** I understand that that the MHS music program receives less than 5% of its budget from the school district, and the rest is raised through donations and fundraising by the Modesto High Band Boosters. Without my support, the program will not continue to offer the same high quality experience for my son/daughter.
- 4. Fundraising:** I understand that fundraising is both the lifeblood of the program, as well as an opportunity for my son/daughter to earn credit toward their Shared Amount. I will make an effort to volunteer for fundraising events when possible, and will encourage my son/daughter to participate as much as they are able to.
- 5. Health:** I will do my best to provide a healthy environment for my son/daughter. I will encourage them to get enough sleep, eat healthy food, limit sugary drinks, drink plenty of water every day and practice good hygiene. I understand that my son/daughter is participating in a "musical sport," and that his/her health is crucial to the success of the Modesto High Band & Color Guard.
- 6. Academics:** *I agree to schedule an appointment to talk with the Director before taking any action on my son/daughter's participation/enrollment in band & color guard.* I will be a partner in my child's academic success. I will encourage them to plan homework time into each day (especially rehearsal days) and turn in all homework assignments on time. I understand the Modesto High Band & Color Guard program's position is that academics are a PRIORITY. However, I respect and understand that my son/daughter's participation and attendance are crucial to the team activity they are part of. Once they become a member, nobody "sits on the bench" like in certain sports. They are given a unique drill spot and we spend money for their music or choreography, making each individual vital to the success of the whole team.
- 7. Finally,** I HAVE READ THIS ENTIRE HANDBOOK and understand the expectations set forth for the school year.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Parent signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Printed student name*

*Contact info:*

*Mailing Address:*

\_\_\_\_\_

*Parent cell phone:* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*Home or other phone:* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*Parent email:* \_\_\_\_\_

## Modesto High School Band & Color Guard – 2014-15 Student Contract

I, \_\_\_\_\_, agree to the following:

(Please **print** student name)

- 1. Attitude:** I will *always* bring a positive attitude to my participation in the Band & Color Guard, no matter how my day has gone so far. I will “leave it at the door”.
- 2. Effort & Understanding:** I will give 100% effort for the duration of every class period, rehearsal, and performance. *I have read the handbook carefully* and agree to abide by all rules and expectations as set forth by the Director and staff.
- 3. Schedule/Attendance:** I will attend all scheduled rehearsals and performances, and I will arrive a minimum of 15 minutes early to rehearsal so that I will be ready for attendance (5 minutes before rehearsal starts). I have read all dates on the calendar, and will continue to check throughout the school year, and will mark them on my personal calendar to avoid conflicts. I am **committed** to attending all events which apply to me. I will do everything I can to communicate with my parents to avoid absence, and will turn in an *Excuse Form at least one week/one month in advance* of any unavoidable conflict.
- 4. Character/Respect:** I will always act in a way that brings pride and honor to the Band & Color Guard, Modesto High School, and my community. I will not talk negatively about another band/guard member, staff member, or another school or performing group. I will respect all of my fellow members, section leaders, parent volunteers, staff and my Band Director. I will promote unity and teamwork among all members of the program and set the best example possible.
- 5. Service:** I will serve my section and the Band & Color Guard in whatever way I can, and I will strive to ensure that everyone has the best experience possible.
- 6. Health:** I will do my best to stay healthy throughout the school year. I will get enough sleep, eat healthy food, limit sugary drinks, drink plenty of water every day and practice good hygiene. I understand that I am participating in a “musical sport,” and that my health is crucial to the success of the Modesto High Band & Color Guard.
- 7. Academics:** I will plan homework time into each day (including rehearsal days) and turn in all homework assignments on time. I will attend all classes and respect my teachers. I will study hard and prepare well for quizzes and exams. I understand academic standards are required for my participation in the Modesto High Band & Color Guard program, and more importantly, academic success is *crucial* to my future success in life.
- 8. Finally,** I HAVE READ THIS ENTIRE HANDBOOK and understand the expectations set forth for the school year.

I accept and embrace these ideals of the Modesto High Band & Color Guard. I understand the success of the program is dependent on the outstanding performance of every person involved. As an individual, I am just as important as any other member, and will commit myself to the highest levels of excellence possible for the entire school year.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Student Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's cell phone (if any)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's email