

San Mateo High School Music Boosters

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Marching Band and Color Guard Information Packet

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome! The San Mateo High School Marching Band and Color Guard is an exciting, fun, colorful, yet disciplined segment of our school. Our appearances at parades, contests, sporting events, musicals and concerts entertain large audiences and add tremendous spirit to our community. Wherever we go, we represent all of the positive qualities of San Mateo High School. What follows is important information that you and your family need to know to be an integral part of this great organization.

I. Responsibilities:

A. To your School:

You are obligated to provide your best possible performance for your school and your community. By enrolling into marching band, you are agreeing to perform, sometimes on weekends or holidays, for the entertainment and enjoyment of others. Since your school owns your uniform, and maybe your instrument, you have the responsibility to keep them in excellent condition at all times.

B. To the Band:

There are many factors that are essential to being a member of the marching band.

1. You must come into band with a positive attitude.
2. You must be prompt and attentive at all rehearsals and performances. Just as professional musicians, you must honor this commitment to the performing group.
3. Attendance in band is even more important. You must be at every rehearsal and performance. Excessive absences will cause severe problems for the band.

Obviously, it is impossible to “make up” an absence from a performance. Any performance absence must be presented in writing at least two weeks **before** the performance date. *Unexcused absences from rehearsals or performances, without prior written notice from a parent or guardian, will result in the lowering of your grade.*

C. To Each Other:

You will always respect the rights of other band members, in or out of uniform. Remember, to have a successful year, we must become “one big happy family.” Discourteous and disrespectful behaviour will not be tolerated.

II. Travel Procedures

A. Release Forms:

You are not allowed to travel on band activities without the proper parental permission and medical release forms.

B. Bus Trips:

All band members are required to travel to and from performances on the bus when one is provided. You may be granted permission to drive yourself **and no other student other than your sibling** to performances if the appropriate permission forms are on file with the band office. This privilege is reserved for special circumstances and is always subject to the approval and discretion of the band director. The band manager will post bus sign-up lists the week of the bus trip to a performance. Once the lists are finalized, no switching will be allowed as it may cause problems for our roll takers. Once you are on the bus, exemplary behavior will be expected. Buses are on a strict schedule. We will not wait for late students. **It is the student's responsibility to meet departure times. It is also the responsibility of each student to make certain the bus is left clean at the end of the trip.**

III. Band Uniforms and Instruments

A. Expectations:

Your band uniform is paid for by the San Mateo High School Music Boosters. It must be regarded as a source of pride. You are expected to keep your uniform in excellent condition at all times.

B. Uniform Care:

Each student will be fit for a uniform, and that uniform will be kept in the uniform room when not in use. When it is not on your body, it needs to be on a hanger. It will be clean when issued. You must provide your own black socks for every performance—no exceptions. Black shoes are also mandatory...you may buy your own (check with the uniform managers first!) or use some of the old surplus shoes.

C. Instrument Care

It is each band member's responsibility to make sure their instrument is loaded and unloaded for each trip. Upon return from a trip each band member must insure that his/her instrument is properly cleaned before placed in its case and stored.

IV. Performance Inspections

At each marching competition, there will be a standing inspection by Section Leaders prior to stepping off if there is time. At many competitions, a judge will conduct a military inspection of each band member while the band block is at attention. The number of “tics” assessed by the judge reduces the band’s score. Because of this rigorous inspection, it is each band member’s responsibility to be completely prepared. Having your instruments and uniforms in “performance condition” upon arrival at the performance site is essential.

10 Important Items:

1. Instrument/rifle/flag must be perfectly presentable.
2. You must have your entire uniform ensemble before leaving the band room for a performance. **BLACK SOCKS, MARCHING BAND!**
3. No jewelry of any kind.
4. Auxiliary makeup must conform to competition standards.
5. Your hair must be above your jacket collar or tucked and pinned firmly under you hat. French braiding works well. Do not rely on your hat alone to keep your hair up.
6. When not in use, keep your instrument in its case. Don’t set it on the ground!
7. Keep your hat in your hatbox or on your head. Don’t set it on the ground!
8. Keep your uniform bag in your hand or on the rack. Don’t leave it lying around.
9. When attending competitions/ performances, you must not leave the assigned area without permission from the band director or the chaperones.
10. Go out of your way to make things comfortable for your fellow band members and our supporting booster parents. Assist other band members, as needed, especially those with the larger instruments. Be polite and courteous so we can all enjoy the day.

V. General Policies

A: Food

Our band room is our home away from home. To keep it looking nice, no candy, gum, soda or other snacks will be permitted in carpeted areas. Also, no food on buses unless permitted. When we are on the road, refreshments will be available at designated periods. We won’t let you starve.

B: Smoking, Drinking and Drugs

Under no circumstances will alcohol, tobacco or other drug use be tolerated during a band activity. **Remember, all district and school rules apply.**

C: Attendance and Grading

Band is a group effort. Your prompt attendance and an evaluation of all individual performances determine your grade. It is impossible to “makeup” your absence at rehearsal or performance. **Any unexcused absences will result in you grade being lowered. It is your responsibility to clear your absences and tardies with the Band Director.**

We are all in band to make music together. All the fun and joy stems from our dedication to performing to the best of our ability. As long as we can focus our positive energies together, we will have a great year. Again, welcome to the finest marching band on the Peninsula.

This page is to be signed by both the student and parent(s) and returned to Mr. Tribuzi. Also, parents must complete and return the attached medical/emergency form. Again, Thank You!

VI. Parent Guidelines and Expectations

Obviously, we cannot run a successful marching program without broad parental support. In addition to attending Music Booster meetings, you can help by volunteering your time and talent in a variety of ways, all of them critical for the support of our students. Please look at the following list and check anything you feel you would like to do for our program. Thanks!

- Attend/chaperone Band Reviews/Parades/Competitions
- Help feed the band during events (make/serve food, bbq, shop)
- Help with uniforms
- Drive support vehicles (trucks, vans) to events
- Help with publicity
- Help with fundraising efforts
- Help with Winterguard Activities

The Marching Band and Guard thanks you in advance for your help and support!

We have read the foregoing rules, expectations and conditions in being a member of the San Mateo High School Marching Band and/or Auxiliary and agree to abide by them. We accept all responsibility for the uniform and equipment, which have been assigned to the student named below. We also agree to maintain the uniform and equipment and to return same to the Music Department at the end of the semester and will reimburse the Music Boosters for the replacement of any missing pieces or damage to any part of the uniform beyond normal wear and tear.

Student Name

Signature

Parent(s) Name

Signature