

Mayde Creek Ram Band Handbook 2016-17



Directors

James Dolnik, Director of Bands, 281-237-3596

Mark Keene, Associate Band Director, 281-237-3503

Molly Casillas, Assistant Band Director, 281-237-3853

Aelynn Rodriguez, Color Guard and Winter Guard Instructor, 281-237-3853

Chris Goodwin, Percussion Instructor, 281-237-3596

www.mchsramband.org

www.twitter.com/mightyramband

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COMMON QUESTIONS / COMMON ANSWERS

1. Can just anyone be in the RAM Band?

Yes and No. A student playing a musical instrument will need some previous experience like junior high band or strong private musical background. Auditions for color guard and jazz band are open to all Mayde Creek students.

2. Do students have to audition for band?

Students are placed into one of four performing bands by ability and experience. An audition is necessary to accurately evaluate for which level band a student is most suited. This audition is in May for the upcoming fall semester, and in November for the spring semester.

3. Can a student be in band for only one semester a year?

No. Students must sign up for both semesters to receive full credit, to cover the state- mandated “Essential Knowledge and Skills for High School Band”, and to receive a P.E. credit. Further, all of the concepts introduced and taught during the fall semester are prerequisites to the information taught in the spring semester. As per Katy ISD curriculum, band is a full year course.

4. How many students are in the band program at Mayde Creek High School?

In the 2016-17 school year, there are approximately 210 students in the RAM Band program.

5. Do all students participate in marching band?

The entire band classes combine together to form the marching band. In order to receive P.E. credit, a student must complete the Essential Knowledge and Skills for High School Band that pertains to marching band. All band students, therefore, are members of the marching band. Because of contemporary drill design, potential sickness, injury, loss of eligibility and other factors, not every student is guaranteed a performance position in the Contest Band.

6. Does the No-Pass / No-Play rule affect a student's participation in band?

Band students must pass all classes to participate in the extra-curricular activities of the band, such as contests, competitions and football game halftimes. The class time instruction and all after school rehearsals are considered curricular and students participate in these regardless of academic eligibility.

7. What expenses can a band student expect?

Band students are expected to provide a pair of black shoes, two pairs of black socks, various method books, a music flip-folder, and a lyre. The Ram Band uses a "fair share fee" for all band members. This fee covers items used by the entire organization. The fee is \$185.00. Items included in this fee are water jugs, music arranging, clinicians, drill writing, master class instructors, etc.

8. What kind of credit does a student receive for band?

A student receives P.E. credit in the fall and fine arts credit in the spring. This means that students in band for all four years do not have to take any physical education courses and therefore have more space in their schedules to take additional electives. Students not in band must take P.E. and thus lose a spot for additional electives

9. How much after school rehearsal time is expected of a band student?

During marching season (approximately the first twelve weeks of the school year), the band rehearses three or four days per week after school. These rehearsals are 2 to 3 hours each. The remainder of the year, students have a one-hour section rehearsal once a week. Our normal rehearsal schedule is Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 3:30-6:00PM. However, all rehearsals are at charmsoffice.com. Sometimes schedules are different because of football games and other performances.

10. Can a student participate in athletics and band?

Yes. The athletic department works closely with the band to arrange practice time and rehearsal schedules to accommodate students participating in both activities. It is not always easy, and does require some advanced planning, but most conflicts are worked out with good communication between student, parent, coach and band director.

11. What kind of contests/competitions does the band participate in?

Each year the band participates in at least two marching contests, at least one parade, at least two concert and sight-reading contests, and an invitational concert festival. Also, individual students are encouraged to participate in region band and orchestra auditions and solo and ensemble competitions.

12. Has the band program enjoyed any recent competitive success?

The band, jazz band and color guard have all won numerous festivals in the last few years and have been recognized as state champions in several

areas. The various bands have been first division and sweepstakes winners at many competitions, and the RAM Band is widely respected in a state renowned for its great band programs. The RAM Winter Guard is a state champion in its circuit, as well as the RAM Percussion Ensemble.

13. Who provides the band uniforms?

The Katy Independent School District purchases the concert band and the marching band uniforms, except for shoes, socks, gloves, t-shirts and rain poncho.

14. How much does the band travel?

The marching band attends all football games of the Mayde Creek Rams, travels to all the competitions listed above and takes a Spring Trip each year. The Spring Trip is funded by student/parent monetary contribution.

15. Can a student take private lessons at the school?

Yes. The RAM Band maintains an outstanding staff of private lesson specialists on each instrument. The teachers come to KISD campuses weekdays between 3 and 9:00 PM. Lessons are weekly, and are 30 minutes in length. The current cost is from \$18.50 to \$24.50 per lesson. Although no student is required to take private lessons, many of MCHS Band students take lessons because of their desire to excel.

16. What extra music experiences can a band student participate in?

Band students can participate in district and region band and orchestra tryouts, solo and ensemble contests, the orchestra for the all-school musical, and perform wind/percussion parts with the MCHS Orchestra. There are also small groups, which perform at various local civic and community functions.

17. Do band students do a lot of fund raising?

Fund raising is always optional. Each student who chooses to participate in the annual spring trip (usually about 70% of the band) pays his/her own costs. Fundraising does not go to individual trip accounts. All money that is raised is divided equally amongst the band. The Ram Band Boosters are in charge of the fundraising activities. The band runs a fireworks building as well as a BP-MS150 approved bike ride, the Katy Ram Challenge.

18. Can a student rent an instrument from the school?

Certain instruments are available for rent through the school on an extremely limited basis. Oboe, Bassoon, Bass Clarinet, Tenor Saxophone, Baritone Saxophone, French Horn, Euphonium and Tuba are some of the instruments available at a cost of \$100 per instrument per year as well as percussion.

19. Is there a Color Guard program?

Yes, a successful and active color guard program is open to any Mayde Creek High School student by audition, even if he/she is not already enrolled in band. The color guard meets year round. Students perform with the marching band in the fall semester and in the Ram Winter Guard in the spring semester. The color guard is a separate class that meets during the school day, so for a student to be in the color guard, she must have room in the schedule for an elective.

20. Is there a Jazz Band at Mayde Creek?

Yes, jazz band is open to all students by audition. Auditions are held the first week of the academic year, and enrollment and instrumentation are strictly controlled to maintain our high standard of excellence.

21. Is there a Band Booster organization?

Yes, an extremely active group of parents and boosters provide the band with crucial support. The booster club undertakes a great number of service projects and fundraisers to assist the students in the band program. Parents are strongly encouraged to participate in the functions of the booster organization and thus foster a real family atmosphere in the RAM Band.

22. Is there a Band website?

Yes, there is a very helpful web site. The address is www.mchsramband.org .our calendar as well as other very helpful information is on the web site. Please check it regularly for updates on schedules and rehearsals. Also please check our twitter site www.twitter.com/mightyramband

23. How do I access Charms Music?

Go to <https://www.charmsoffice.com/>
Under school Log in type: maydecreekhshb
There you will be able to access calendars, email addresses, and handouts.

Mission Statement:

In being a member of the Ram Band the students will become productive participants in the wellbeing of the band program. The students will achieve this through:

- A. Useful and productive rehearsals
- B. Productive members of the band as an organization
- C. A spirit of camaraderie throughout the band
- D. Participation and success in competition at local and national levels
- E. Respectfully adhering to the rules and regulations of the Katy ISD, and conducting themselves properly when representing the Katy ISD, Mayde Creek H.S., and the Ram Band.

This handbook is a policy handbook-giving students and parents the chance to view what is expected and what will be addressed throughout the school year. All the policies and guidelines that are discussed throughout this handbook are well thought out and are expected to be adhered to by all students of this organization. This handbook is open for discussion at the end of each school year for revisions and addendum that may need to be added. Please read over this handbook very carefully for it is the rules and guidelines that will affect you this entire school year. Remember Band is a **PRIVILEGE NOT A RIGHT**.

PURPOSE OF HANDBOOK

This handbook is designed to help you understand the policies, complexities, and concepts of a very large and proud organization. We hope that it can be used to answer questions and define the boundaries that are important in keeping the RAM BAND an efficient organization. If it is utilized properly, the concepts of responsibility, teamwork, and good citizenship will develop. If you need information that does not appear here, please ask the directors. We will try to assist you in whatever way possible.

PHILOSOPHY AND OBJECTIVES

It is the responsibility of the music education program to seek to bring every student the deepest possible understanding and realization of his fullest potential, through the awareness of self-expression, pride of accomplishment, teamwork, citizenship, tradition, morale, spirit, and loyalty. Our curriculum and efforts are designed with these goals in mind.

Today's pressure for scholastic excellence and individual accomplishment increases the need for music education in the curriculum. More than ever before, music education is very important to the mental and physical stability of today's young people.

Some the objectives of music education are the fostering of the personal benefits of self-made music as a form of expression as a means for emotional outlet, as a wholesome use of leisure time, and as a contributing factor in the development of well-rounded character and mental awareness.

The prime objective of music in education is to develop musically sensitive, intelligent adults who fully appreciate the significant contribution that music can make to the individual, to the community, and to the quality of life.

EXPENSES REQUIRED

- #Band Fee \$185.00
- #Solo and Ensemble \$12.00

OPTIONAL EXPENSES

- #Region Band / Orchestra – \$15.00
- #Region Jazz - \$20.00
- # Game Day Meals – varies
- Black Shoes \$42.50 (Totes Unlimited)
- Black Socks on you own
- +Instrument Usage fee for Katy ISD \$100.00
- Instrument Supplies
 - Woodwinds are expected to have 3 good working reeds at all times!! As well as having key oil and swabs, etc.
 - Brass are required to have BERPS. Every rehearsal.
 - Percussionists are required to have sticks and mallets at all times.

EXPENSES NOT REQUIRED

- Band Trip**
- Music for Solo and Ensemble and
- Method books**
- Recordings** #=Must be paid to MCHS Band Boosters
+=Must be paid to Katy ISD
** No cost available or the cost varies

Contact Information

A voice-mail telephone message can be taken anytime of the day. We do suggest, however, contacting us via e-mail. The following list notes the directors responsible for the following Mayde Creek HS Band items.

James Dolnik- Director of Bands- jamesadolnik@katyisd.org

- Overall Ram Band Program Questions
- Wind Symphony
- Marching Band Attendance Issues
- Letter Jackets
- Announcements / Web
- All Calendar Issues/Event Times and Dates
- Financial Aid/Scholarships/Trip Accounts

Mark Keene - Associate Director – markdkeene@katyisd.org

- Symphonic Band
- Concert Band 2
- Full Orchestra
- AP Music Theory
- Lockers
- School Owned Instruments

Molly Casillas- Assistant Director- mollyrcasillas@katyisd.org

- Concert Band
- Marching Band Attendance
- Transportation
- Jazz Band
- Private Lessons/Color Guard

Performing Groups

Marching Band

1. The Ram Marching Band is the largest performing group at Mayde Creek High School. The Band performs at all varsity football games, two or three contests, and occasional guest appearances.
2. The marching band is open to any student that has passed a proficiency audition. Auditions are usually held in the spring.
3. Rehearsal Schedule
 - A. Summer band rehearsals begin the first week of August and continue until school begins.
 - B. During football season, rehearsals begin every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday at 3:30 P.M. and run until 6:00 P.M.
 - C. Some Wednesday rehearsals are necessary because of holidays and football games. **Please check the band website for updates.** We will try to put changes on our twitter account as well. www.twitter.com/mightyramband
4. Band camp (summer band)
 - A. The Ram Band camp is held during the month of August. The purpose of this camp is build camaraderie within the band as well as to sharpen marching and playing skills.
 - B. Attendance at the Ram Band camp is required in order to qualify for a permanent marching position.

Wind Symphony

1. The Wind Symphony is composed of the most musically and technically advanced students.
2. Membership is determined by audition and by overall performance history.
3. The Wind Symphony performs three to four concerts a year and competes in UIL Concert and Sight Reading Contest. Additional performances include one or more festivals and occasional concerts for the middle or elementary schools.
4. Members of the Wind Symphony are strongly encouraged to participate in All-Region auditions, Solo and Ensemble Contest, and private study.
5. Rehearsal Schedule
 - A. Meets every day 3rd period.
 - B. During the spring semester, sectionals are held after school one time a week, as determined by the individual sections, as well as a full brass and full woodwind sectional every other week.

Symphonic Band

1. The Symphonic Band serves as a training band for those students who have not developed the necessary musical and technical skills for the Wind Symphony.
2. The Symphonic Band performs three to four concerts a year and competes in UIL Concert and Sight-reading Contest. Additional performances include one or more festivals and occasional concerts for the middle or elementary schools.
3. Members of the Symphonic Band are strongly encouraged to participate in All-Region auditions, Solo and Ensemble Contest, and private study.

4. Rehearsal Schedule.

- A. Full band meets every day 2nd period.
- B. During the spring semester, sectionals are held after school one time a week, as determined by the individual sections.

Concert Band

The Concert Band serves as a training band for those students who have not developed the necessary musical and technical skill for Symphonic Band.

1. The Concert Band performs three to four concerts a year and competes in UIL Concert and Sight-reading Contest. Additional performances may include one or more festivals and occasional concerts for the middle or elementary schools.

2. Members of the Concert Band are strongly encouraged to participate in All-Region auditions, Solo and Ensemble Contest, and private study.

3. Rehearsal Schedule.

- A. Full band meets every day 6th period.
- B. During the spring semester, sectionals are held after school one time a week.
- C. Additional full band rehearsals after school may be scheduled during the semester.

Cadet Band

The Cadet Band serves as a training band for those students who have not developed the necessary musical and technical skill for Concert Band,

1. The Cadet Band performs three to four concerts a year.

2. Members of the Cadet Band are strongly encouraged to participate in All-Region auditions, Solo and Ensemble Contest, and private study.

3. Rehearsal Schedule.

A Full band meets every day 1st period.

Jazz Ensemble

1. **Membership in the band program is required** for anyone interested in participating in the Jazz Ensemble, with the possible exceptions of piano, bass, and guitar.

2. Instrumentation includes alto sax, tenor sax, baritone sax, trumpets, trombones, drum set, piano/keyboards, bass, and auxiliary percussion.
3. Rehearsal Schedule
 - A. The rehearsal schedule is set by the students and usually begins after marching season..
 - B. Sectionals will be called on an as needed basis.

Attendance Policy

With our limited rehearsal time, it is imperative that we make the most of each rehearsal. As a member of the Ram Band you have an obligation to your fellow band members to be at all rehearsals on time, prepared, and with the necessary equipment.

Attendance

1. All band students must abide by the Mayde Creek High School attendance policies.
2. Students must be in attendance to school and organization published criteria in order to participate in a performance or special activity.
3. Attendance is required at all rehearsals, sectionals, and performances.

Absences and tardies

Absences and tardies will be excused in the following cases:

1. Medical emergency or personal illness.
2. Death in the family.
3. Religious holiday.

Examples of unexcused absences and tardies include:

1. Work
2. Dental or medical appointments
3. Over-sleeping
4. Transportation not arranged

All absences are to be reported by the parents in writing to the directors. In case of an emergency, an explanatory phone call to the director is appropriate-prior to the rehearsal or performance if possible. **ABSENCE FORMS ARE ON THE BAND WEBSITE AS WELL AS OUTSIDE THE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE.**

Roll Check

1. Every band function will begin with a roll check.
2. You must be in your assigned position or you will be considered absent.
3. Tardies are simply not tolerated!!!! If you are late during concert season you will be assigned a detention. If you are late for marching rehearsal you will run a lap around the field for every minute you are late and

be on probation for the week and may not be assigned a marching position. The directors will excuse the only exceptions. In class, normal school policy will be used. You must be in your seat with the proper materials when the bells rings or you will be assigned a detention.

4. Roll check positions you must know:
 - A. Seated indoor rehearsal set up (roll checked at designated rehearsal time)
 - B. Position in marching warm-up block (roll checked at designated rehearsal time)

Student Conduct

1. Band members are encouraged to cultivate an attitude of good discipline during rehearsals. Talking, disturbances, or inattention shows a lack of interest and respect to the band and will not be tolerated.
2. Band members serve as good will ambassadors for the school, district, and community. Polite and courteous behavior is a credit to the band organization, to the school, and to the parents.
3. Since a portion of the marching band activity is somewhat militaristic, it is expected that students be aggressive in rehearsing and performing marching fundamentals. When at attention or parade rest, there should be no variation from the expected mental and physical attitude.
4. Loud and boisterous activity by the band members when in public are not in the best interest of the band's image.
5. Food, gum, or drink is never permitted during rehearsal or performance, **OR IN THE BAND HALL.**
6. The use of drugs, alcohol or tobacco is strictly forbidden.
7. Students will be expected to have the proper frame of mind just prior to rehearsal and performances. Incorrect warm-ups, loud playing, or boisterous behavior is inappropriate.
8. Any infraction of conduct, attitude, or responsibility will be dealt with in one or more of the following manners:
 - A. Conference with student
 - B. Detention or conference with grade level principal
 - C. Conference with parents and grade level principal
 - D. Probationary contract
9. Band members whose attitude towards the band program is a detriment to the success of the program and do not attempt to resolve this problem, will be ultimately removed from the program.
10. **Mayde Creek Ram Band Alcohol Policy.**
 - A. A first offense for any student in the Ram Band program, while on a school sponsored activity, to include any use or possession of tobacco, drugs, or alcohol can result in the removal of the student from all band participation for one year with a review following that year for reinstatement.
 - B. A second offense for any student in the Ram Band program, while on a school sponsored activity, to include any use or possession of tobacco, drugs, or alcohol can result in the removal from the band program for the remainder of the student's high school years.
 - C. The final decision on punishment will be at the discretion of the individual director.

Grading Procedure

The following areas are taken into consideration when calculating grades.

Attendance

Band is a performing organization. There are so many potential conflicts with marching rehearsals and sectionals that there will be little chance for success unless a strict attendance policy is enforced (see Attendance policy).

Attendance, Conduct, and Cooperation

A positive attitude is necessary for each band member to perform up to his fullest potential. The band directors assume that each member is in band to fulfill his potential, represent Mayde Creek High School, and have fun.

Performance

Several performance factors are considered in determining grades.

1. Performance on playoffs, playing tests, and marching tests.
2. Performance on written tests concerning such items as musical vocabulary, music theory, music history, composers, etc.
3. Improvement on the student's instrument.
4. Participation points are given to each student at the start of a new six weeks. Infractions that will cause students to lose these points include: unexcused tardy to sectional / rehearsal (15points) failure to attend rehearsals/sectionals (30 points), failure to attend performance will result in a zero (0), leaving music or uniform parts out, equipment left out (5 points)
5. Each performance of the band is considered a grade with the score of 100 points.

At the conclusion of the grading period, the student's average is determined by the average of performance, test, participation, and daily grades.

Grading Policy for MCHS Ram Band

Major Grades: Performances, Tests, After school engagement, Attendance and Participation

Minor Grades : Playing quizzes, Concert Performance; attire and punctuality; Sectional / rehearsals

Other Grades: Daily engagement in rehearsals,. Preparation, Written homework,

S.A.T. / A.C.T. TESTING

The SAT and ACT College entrance exams are critical portions of a high school student's academic regiment. Much research has been done that proves that students studying music are much more successful at these exams than students not studying music. The testing agencies that administer these exams set the dates these tests will be given at least a year in advance and publicize these dates to allow students to plan. The band directors of Mayde Creek High School understand the importance of these tests and encourage band students to take these exams. The directors plan rehearsals and performances throughout the school year to allow students to take these exams at least twice in the year without a band conflict. It is the responsibility of the student and parent to make sure to sign up for these exams only on the days that have no scheduled band event. There are always be at least two dates per test, per year to choose from.

The dates for this year's SAT / ACT Dates are on the band website.

Care of Equipment

Students are expected to care for their instrument, equipment, music, music folio, and uniform. Regular inspections are held to determine the condition of these items. Inspections are used as a partial basis for

determining grades. Students that are issued any Katy ISD equipment are required to take the District's instrument usage policy.

Care of Band Hall and Equipment

1. NO FOOD, GUM OR DRINKS ARE ALLOWED IN THE BAND HALL.
2. No student is allowed in the band hall without the presence of an adult.
3. Keep instruments in cases with the latches closed in your assigned slot when not in use.
4. Large instrument cases are to be stored in slots during rehearsals.
5. No books or homework allowed in the rehearsal set. You are in band to learn music not catch up on homework.
6. Instrument slots must be kept clean. Personal items may be stored in the slots during marching season only. Items not properly stored may be discarded.
7. Personal items are not to be stored on the library, office, practice rooms or uniform room.
8. The band department assumes no responsibility for personal items stored or left in the band hall.
9. **Keep your lockers locked!!! We are not keepers of all your worldly goods. Mayde Creek is not responsible for lost or stolen valuables.**

Uniform policy

The Ram Band uniform is something that you should always wear with pride. Participation in the program including the use of uniform that comes with participation is a privilege.

Uniform issuance

1. Uniforms will be issued on money day. Any uniform part that is lost or damaged is your responsibility to replace. Each band member will be issued the following (flag members will have some variations)
 - A. A marching coat
 - B. A concert jacket
 - C. A pair of trousers
 - D. A hat
 - E. Uniform Bag
 - F. Concert Dress (girls)
2. It is the responsibility of each band member to purchase the following:
 - A. A pair of black marching shoes and black socks (NO TENNIS SHOES)
 - B. A pair of solid black concert shoes and socks.
 - C. Uniforms will be checked out to students in the following order:
 1. Upper classmen who request Last Year's uniform and hard to fit people.
 2. seniors
 3. juniors
 4. sophomores
 5. freshmen

Wearing the Uniform

1. HAT - The hat should be worn straight on the top of the head with the strap worn snug under the chin. Hair extending below the collar will be worn inside the hat. Plumes will be issued immediately before each marching performance and collected immediately following.

2. **MARCHING COAT** - The coat should be worn completely fastened at all times when in public unless otherwise specified by the director. The Band Shirt is to be worn under the uniform coat, which allows the band to have a uniform appearance if the coat is removed during hot weather.
3. **TROUSERS** - The trousers should be worn above the waist. The hem of the trousers should be even with the top of the heel of the shoe.
4. **SHOES** - Shoes are to be kept clean and polished. Only black shoes and socks are to be worn with the marching uniform, and black shoes and socks with the concert uniform.
5. **CUMMERBUND** - (concert uniform only) Hitch goes in back and pleats face up.
6. **JEWELRY** – Conservative for ladies, no large earrings, bright hair bows, etc....

Alterations

1. Altering hems according to the designated guidelines is the responsibility of the student. Any adjustments to trouser length must be done prior to the first performance.
2. No material is to be cut or removed from the uniform during alterations.

Uniform decorum

1. There will be no variations from the proper wearing of the uniform unless specified by the directors. Sunglasses, other hats, etc. are not appropriate.
2. Keep the uniform hung properly on a wooden hanger. Do not leave it in your car.
3. Memorize your uniform numbers. Do not exchange uniform parts with another band member.
4. Arrive at the band hall before performance with plenty of time to change into full uniform.
5. Do not wear bracelets, necklaces, or other unnecessary jewelry. No dangling or hoop earrings. Guys are not allowed to wear earrings of any kind while in uniform.
6. If you lose, damage, or have any problem with your uniform, see a director as soon as possible.
7. **NO UNIFORM PARTS WILL BE ISSUED PRIOR TO INSPECTIONS.**
8. Uniform parts that are left in the band hall after performances will be confiscated. 5 points per uniform part will be deducted from the student's participation grade.

Guidelines for Performance and Routine

Marching

The performance of the Ram Band at any football game begins the moment we enter the parking lot, and does not end until we leave the parking lot. **UNIFORMS MUST BE COMPLETELY ON BEFORE WE LEAVE THE BUSES.** This means only the standard uniform parts. (NO ADDITIONS) The band is at the football game to provide a supportive environment for the football team as well as perform our contest show for the enjoyment of the audience. The band will not participate in any derogatory cheers and will always show respect for the other school. Uniforms will remain on at all times, unless the directors say otherwise. There will be **NO EATING OR DRINKING IN UNIFORM!!!!** Eat your meals before or after the game.

Pre-Game

Be on time!!!! Wear the proper uniform from the waist down. Exception is the loading crew. Be responsible for your uniform and instrument. If you fail to get your instrument to the instrument truck, you will not perform at the game.

In the Stands

1. No instrument cases allowed in the stands. Unless instructed by a director.
2. Stay in your designated seat. We will look like an organized group.
3. Use your music. Everyone is required to have their own music and flip-folder.
4. Wear uniform at all times.
5. Food, drinks, or gum are not allowed in the stands.
6. **Visitors are not allowed in the Band's area.** This includes family members and ex-students.
7. Play your instrument. No one is allowed to play another's instrument.
8. We play as a Band, not as individuals.
9. Only water is allowed in your water cooler.

After the Game

1. Be responsible for your own equipment.
2. Follow instructions given to you as we are leaving the stands.
3. Students must ride home with the band. On the occasion that the student does not, a parent must fill out the proper documentation from the band website. (NO NOTES)

Back at Mayde Creek

1. Have a ride ready to pick you up at estimated time.
2. Be responsible for your own equipment and uniform.
3. Correctly hang and turn in uniform.
4. STUDENTS MUST BE PICKED UP ON TIME. FAILURE TO DO SO MAY RESULT IN ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:
 - A. REMOVAL FROM THE PROGRAM BECAUSE OF INSUFFICIENT TRANSPORTATION/PARENT SUPPORT.
 - B. THE SCHOOL WILL CALL CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES BECAUSE OF FAILURE TO TRANSPORT THE STUDENT.

Band Trips

When traveling with the Mayde Creek High School Band, you represent not only yourself, but also your school, the band, family, and community.

Attire

When not traveling in uniform, you must adhere to all Katy ISD dress codes as stated in your school handbook.

Busses

1. Remain seated when in motion.
2. Do not sit on backs of seats.

3. Do nothing to distract driver.
4. Never throw anything from the bus windows.
5. Keep talking at a conversational level. NO YELLING!!
6. Portable stereos, cd players, etc., must be used with headphones.
7. Always respect the rights of your fellow band members and chaperones.

Overnight trips

1. Curfews set by directors will be strictly adhered to.
2. When staying in a motel, never do anything that will disturb any motel guest.
3. Respect the property of others. The defacing of property will not be tolerated.
4. Chaperones are on trips for your safety. Obey any request of a chaperone without hesitation.
5. More guidelines will be added per trip.

Letter Jackets

KISD recognizes and rewards students for outstanding extra-curricular achievements. A band letter jacket is awarded to those students who excel in areas beyond the regular curricular areas of band. A student does not earn a letter jacket simply by being a member of the class, but, rather, by going beyond the expected requirements to the exceptional achievement. Students must earn fifteen (15) points to receive a letter jacket. All points are cumulative within a year and carry over from year to year. Students moving into the Mayde Creek High School Band from another Texas public school will have previously earned points assigned according to this policy. Students moving in from out of state or from private schools will be assigned points on a case by case basis pending verification from previous school(s). Senior students earning jackets through participation only must fulfill all obligations to the Mayde Creek High School Band for the entire senior year to retain the jacket.

POINT DISTRIBUTION

TMEA SPONSORED HONOR ORGANIZATIONS POINTS

- 9th Grade All-Region Band 2
- All-District Band 2
- All-Region Band or Orchestra 6
- All-Area Band 4
- All-State Band 3

UIL REGION SOLO AND ENSEMBLE CONTEST POINTS

- Division I: Class 1 Solo (memorized) 6
- Class 1 Solo (not memorized) 5
- Class 2 Solo 4
- Class 3 Solo 3
- Class 1 Small Ensemble 3
- Class 2 Small Ensemble 2
- Class 3 Small Ensemble 1
- Any Medium Ensemble 2

UIL STATE SOLO AND ENSEMBLE CONTEST POINTS

- Division I: Solo 5

Small Ensemble 3
Division II: Solo 3

PARTICIPATION POINTS

Each underclassman year 2

Senior year (with three previous years participation) 10

Participation points in any year will be awarded if the student is academically eligible for ALL full band extra-curricular activities in that year.

A PARENT'S GUIDE TO BAND COMPETITION

Texas is blessed with a tremendously strong curricular music program in the public school systems. For whatever reasons, our music programs have survived every curricular innovation, every scheduling impediment, and every budgetary crisis in the last 75 years. A large part of this longevity may be attributed to the well-organized and maintained competition system in Texas that is the model for the rest of the country. Band competition in Texas is sponsored by two very different organizations: the University Interscholastic League (UIL) and the Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA). The UIL is an organization of schools. Schools may elect to be a part of the UIL each year and nearly all of the Texas public school systems choose to do so. TMEA is an organization of music teachers, including band, choir, orchestra, and classroom music teachers at every level through college. Marching and concert competitions are sponsored by the UIL, while TMEA sponsors the competition that chooses the All-State performers each year and, in biennial cycles, selects the Honor Bands in each class through recordings that may or may not be from UIL competitions.

UIL MARCHING CONTEST

Regional level:

This contest has been sponsored by the UIL for over half a century and takes place in the 28 different designated regions in the state in October each year. Bands march shows of no less than 5 minutes and no more than 8 minutes to be given a rating by each of three independent judges: 1=superior; 2=excellent; 3=good; 4=fair; 5=poor. The judges cannot confer about their ratings and the FINAL rating is a consensus of the three NOT an average. For instance, a I, I, V is a ONE. A V, V, I is a FIVE, etc. Theoretically, EVERY band can get a I=superior or a V= poor. The competition is NOT among the bands themselves but against a standard of excellence that has been established through the many decades of this competition. This contest was the primary competitive goal of Texas bands until 1979 when the State Marching Contest was founded. It is still the first of three parts of a "Sweepstakes" which includes Marching, Concert, and Sight-reading.

Area Level:

This contest is held every two years in the "even" numbered years. Its sole purpose is to choose the State Qualifiers from the regions within our area: 23,13,27. One band per 5 entered will advance to State. The contest uses 5 judges: 3 music judges and 2 marching judges. Each judge ranks the bands from top to bottom and the total ranks are added for a "rank total." The lowest rank total is first place!

State Level:

The contest has been held since 1979 to choose a State Champion in each class. It is now held every two years in even numbered years and has been moved to the Alamodome in San Antonio to prevent weather interruptions. The contest is similar to the Area Contest with five judges and the lowest total of "rank points" becomes first place.

UIL CONCERT/SIGHTREADING CONTEST

This is the staple competition for UIL, occurring every year in the spring in all 28 regions of the state. Bands prepare a concert program of three pieces chosen from the Prescribed Music List and perform for a panel of three judges who rate the bands with one of five ratings, just as in regional marching competition. Again, the comparison is only with a standard of excellence, not with other bands in the contest. Theoretically, every band could earn a First Division or a Fifth Division! Immediately following the concert, bands move to another room to sight-read a piece of music chosen to be read by all the bands within a class statewide! The music for sight-reading is composed specifically for the contest and addresses certain fundamentals that are aligned with the curriculum for each classification. This is the musical equivalent of a statewide achievement test for Band.

UIL SOLO-ENSEMBLE CONTEST

The only "individual" competition that the UIL sponsors for instrumentalists is held in the Winter, usually at the end of February each year. Students choose a solo and/or an ensemble from the Prescribed Music List for their instrument and begin work in November/December. Solos must be memorized so that students can earn advancement to the State level by making a First Division at the region level. Non-memorized solos cannot advance. Once again, judges are rating each performance compared to a statewide scale of excellence, not as a comparison of one student to another. Students earn medals for First Divisions as well as qualification to State.

The Texas State Solo-Ensemble Contest is held in Austin each year during the last weekend in May. Students who compete perform for judges with national and international experience, often major symphony performers and college educators. Students who earn a First Division receive a state gold medal and a few students are selected to be "Outstanding Performers" and receive State Champion medals for their work. Nearly 20,000 students participate in this two-day event.

TMEA ALL-REGION/AREA/STATE

The Texas Music Educators Association sponsors individual competitions every fall that culminate in the selection of the All-State Bands, Choirs, and Orchestras that perform at the annual convention in February.

The 28 Texas regions hold the first level of competition and the top students advance to the Area level held in

January. In each of the seven Areas, a designated number of the top students are selected to All-State. At each level of competition, students perform for a panel of 5 judges in a blind audition where judges are screened from sight and do not know which students are performing. Just as in other head-to-head competitions in Texas, each judge ranks each student in comparison with each other and the lowest total of rank points is first chair! The All-Region Bands perform in a concert in the middle of January each year, but the Area Band is for qualification purposes only. The All-State groups rehearse for 3 days in February prior to their performances with internationally acclaimed conductors and educators!

Interesting note: Placement in Texas All-State is indicative of being ranked in the top 1/2% of all music students in Texas and the top 2% nationwide!

TMEA STATE HONOR BAND

TMEA also sponsors competition every two years in the "odd" numbered years for concert bands to be named "State Honor Band." Bands across the state choose to record as many as five different performances of their concert programs and submit the best of these for consideration at the region, area, and state levels. At each level, a panel of five adjudicators hears the recorded performances without knowing the school identification. The judges rank the performances from top to bottom and the top 2 at each level advance to the next level. The performance with the lowest total rank points is first place at each level. Fourteen performances are heard at the final level to select the finalists and the State Honor Band in each class.

Handbook/Marching Band Grading Policy Acknowledgement

I have read the entire Mayde Creek High School Band Handbook and I am responsible for being aware of all of its contents. In particular, I have read the Attendance Policy, Grading Policy, Discipline Management Plan, General Rules of Conduct, Bus Riding Rules, Uniform Policy, School Owned Instruments Policy, and Overnight Student Trip Rules.

Grading Policy and Rules for Football Performances

Performance = 100 points

Not standing at attention during National Anthem / other school songs = -20

Food or other drink besides water = - 30 points

Incorrect uniform parts = -30 points

No black socks = No performance at halftime

No halftime performance = -50 points

Not following directions of directors, chaperones, or drum majors will result in immediate discipline action by either MCHS principal or removal from the event.

No music in stands = -30 points

Moving from assigned area in stands = -30 points each offense.

Permission for rest room from a director only.

Students must ride home from games with the band.

Under special circumstances students may ride home with a parent provided the proper documentation and forms are filled out and signed by a principal.

Missing a performance with an unexcused absence may result in the processes of removal from the band program.

I have read and understand this marching band grading policy and rules of conduct.

Student Signature _____

Student Name Printed _____

Parent Signature _____

