

Mission Bay High School

Music Director – Mr. Balmat

Room 113

HANDBOOK FOR WIND ENSEMBLE

2008-2009



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Dear Mission Bay High School Band Families,

I would like to welcome you to the 2008-2009 Music Program. I am very pleased that your child has taken an interest in music and wants to join the Music Program at MBHS. This program will challenge your child and make them better musicians. Along with musical improvement many studies show that young people who participate in music are among the most academically gifted in their schools. This musical experience helps students achieve: self-discipline, better group cooperation, higher self-esteem, an understanding of teamwork, development of a sense of persistence and performance confidence. Music should be a fundamental part of any well-rounded education.

Music, my main love, has been my outlet for self-expression. I intend on teaching each and everyone in class to tap into their inner creativity through the music we perform. This creativity lies in us all and music serves as the stepping-stone to personal growth and development.

As parents, I encourage you all to be a huge part in your children's musical experience at Mission Bay. Your love and support leads your children to success in their lives. There will be many opportunities to help with the music program throughout the year. If you are interested in joining the booster organization or just being involved please fill out the interest form and return it along with the signature page.

This Handbook is your reference on all guidelines, activities, class policies and procedures for the school year. Please review the handbook with your child and send back the signature page acknowledging that both of you have read it thoroughly. Please do not hesitate to call if you have any questions or concerns. My door is ALWAYS open. This year is going to be great! Thank you for sharing it with me.

Sincerely,

Jean-Paul Balmat

Course Description: The Wind Ensemble is a performance class. Students will learn a variety of classical literature and perform in festivals, school and community events. Students will also learn basic music theory. The course will follow California Content Standards specific for music.

Class Rules: The musical experience should be a positive one. The classroom rules are to provide an equal opportunity to learn for everyone. To have a positive and productive experience the rules are as follows:

1. Be in class with instrument ready, music out, pencil in hand and positive attitude when bell rings.
2. Be respectful of the teacher, fellow classmates, and all equipment in the room.
3. Stay on task and follow directions when given.

Consequences: The consequences if these rules are broken are as follows:

1. Verbal warning
2. Private meeting with student
3. Written warning and call home
4. Referral to office

Tardy Policy: Tardiness can be disrupting to class and should be avoided. Tardies will affect your citizenship grade following Mission Bay's Citizenship Grade Rubric. Tardies will also lower your participation grade in class.

Absent Policy: The four by four schedule requires that students attend class daily. One day missed is like missing two days of class in a standard schedule. Absences will affect your citizenship grade following Mission Bay's Citizenship Grade Rubric. Attendance counts for 60% of your academic grade, so DON'T BE ABSENT!!!

Grading: Your academic grade will be determined by the following grading scale.

A	90-100	60% =Attendance/Participation
B	80-89	10% =Practice Logs
C	70-79	15% =Music Juries/Written Final
D	60-69	15% =Performances
F	below 60	

Practice Logs: Your success in band depends on the time and effort you put in outside class. Students are expected to take their instruments home daily. At the end of every day students are to sign out their instruments in the band room.

Music Juries: Students in the Wind Ensemble will be graded on their knowledge of musical applications such as scales, ability to sight-read, and knowledge of basic music theory. All of these areas will be addressed in class to prepare students. At the end of each semester the student will be asked to demonstrate these abilities by performing on their instrument.

Performances: A large aspect of the concert band is its ability to perform for public and school functions. The performances we do outside of class should reflect all the hard work we have put in inside the classroom. Since the band functions as a group, attendance at **all** performances is **required**. *Students may be excused from performances if there has been prior communication between the parent and teacher.*

Performance Dress: It is the band's job to represent Mission Bay in a positive light. It is important to act and dress in a professional manner when representing the school and band. **Each musician needs to have the appropriate attire in order to participate in performances.**

Boys – Black pants (no jeans), white dress shirt (long-sleeved), black socks/shoes

Girls – Black skirts or pants (no jeans), white shirt/blouse, black shoes

If there are any difficulties supplying the appropriate attire please contact me and arrangements will be made for your child.

School Instruments: The school has a limited amount of instruments this year. The instruments the school does have should go to the students with financial hardships. If a student needs to borrow an instrument from the school a **letter of need** is necessary stating which instrument they would like to borrow. A fee of \$20 is charged for the rental of instruments the school does not have.

Local Music Stores (for instrument rental or purchase)

- La Jolla Music (858)-459-3375 The Windsmith (619)-220-8984
7442 Girard La Jolla, CA 92037 2867 University Ave., CA 92104

- Musicraft (619)-675-7555 Alan's Music Center (619)-446-1938
10175 Rancho Carmel Dr. 8510 La Mesa Blvd, La Mesa, CA
Suite 114, CA 92128 91941

Band Text: The text we will be using in class is Foundations for Superior Performance published by NEILA KJOS Music Co. Students can purchase this book at any of the music stores above. Books are instrument specific so make sure you buy the book for your own instrument. Please call ahead to make sure they have the specific book in stock. Books cost about \$7. For financial aid please contact teacher.

Band Materials: All students **need** to have the accessories for their specific instrument.

Brass Accessories:

Tuba- valve oil, tuning slide grease

Trombone- slide-o-mix

Trumpet- rotary valve oil, tuning slide grease

Woodwind Accessories:

Flute- soft cloth or rag (handkerchief size)

Clarinet/Saxophones- All reed players need at least three good reeds at all times.

-Clarinet-Mitchell Lurie, Vandoren (my reed of choice), Rico Royal,
LaVoz (2-3 strength)

-Saxophone-Lavoz, Hemke, Rico, Vandoren Java(my reed of choice)
(2-3 strength)

All reed players also need cork grease and a cleaning swab!

Percussion:

-Snare drum sticks and a Practice pad

Additional Materials Recommended For All Students:

-Instrument Tuner

-Metronome

-Manuscript Paper

*Any questions about mouthpiece, ligature, instrument brand or pricing
please feel free to contact me.*

Again, for financial aid for any materials please contact me.

Assistance Interest Form

I can assist with the following:

- Type letters, programs, etc.
- Assist with arts advocacy
- Concert tear down, moving equipment
- Driver to concerts, rehearsals, festivals
- Chaperone concerts
- Assist with fundraising
- Be involved with Band Booster

Name _____

Student's Name _____

Phone Number _____

Email _____

*Important: I like to keep parents informed. If you would like to know what is going on in your child's class please provide your email address.

Mission Bay High School

Band Handbook

We have read and discussed the band handbook with our child. We agree to abide by the rules and information within.

Important highlights from the handbook:

As stated in the handbook, **attendance at performances is required**. Absences are only excused if **prior communication between the director and parent has occurred**. This can be done either by a direct or telephone conversation.

Each student needs to have their music, a pencil, and instrument every day.

Students need to keep their music in the folder provided.

Students will need to return **all** copies of music when we have finished with a piece.

Daily practice is essential to the progress of any student. Outcomes of their performance and written tests are a direct result of their practice.

Print Student's Name

Student's Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signatures

Date

*This sheet must be turned in no later than the second week of school. Students who do not turn this sheet in will receive an F/U as their grade in class.