



MARTIN LUTHER KING
ACADEMIC MAGNET
SCHOOL BANDS

2004-2005

Handbook

*Rod Hill, J. Ashley Jarrell and
Marsha Hartwein,
Directors*

FORWARD

The band program at Martin Luther King Magnet School forms a vital and important part of the total school program. The band represents an important part of the education program. 90% of our statesmen, Fortune 500 executives, and those with appointments to military academies were involved in their school music programs. Students studying music consistently score and average 45-60 points higher on the SAT exam than those not taking music courses. A study by the National Association of Secondary School Principals reported in the KAPPA has said that participation in extra curricular activities (and particularly music) is the greatest predictor of student success in life.

The main emphasis of the Martin Luther King Magnet School Band program is on **MUSICIANSHIP**. The goal of each student is to learn to play their instrument as well as possible, making the band a quality, life enriching, aesthetic experience. Additionally, MLK band students possess the qualities of self-discipline and citizenship, making them among the best and brightest in our school.

The directors are readily available to answer your questions or concerns. Please call us if we can help in any way. Communication is the key to your child's continued success and enjoyment of music!! The band room phone number is 321-8372. Additional information will be available at www.mlkbands.org. Please visit the web site often to receive the most updated information.

WELCOME TO THE MARTIN LUTHER KING MAGNET SCHOOL BAND!!!!

Musically,

Rod Hill, J. Ashley Jarrell and Marsha Hartwein, Directors

I. THE MARTIN LUTHER KING MAGNET SCHOOL BAND PROGRAM

A. **Beginning band** - In this band, students are taught the fundamentals of playing an instrument and reading music. This band will consist of primarily, but is not limited to seventh graders. One of the goals of this band is to aid in the balance of instrumentation in the high school bands, therefore, not all instruments will be available for study. We will make every effort to match students with the instrument that suits them physically, thereby facilitating success. Uniforms for the Beginning Band will consist of the band shirt, black pants (not jeans), black shoes (not tennis shoes) and black socks. The cost of the band shirt will be \$20. Students will be able to wear the shirt in Eighth grade band the following year.

B. **Seventh and Eighth Grade Bands** - These bands consist of students in their second or third year of playing. They will review fundamentals of playing and will advance into grade II and III band literature. These bands will perform a minimum of three concerts per year. They may also attend MTSBOA concert festival in the Spring. The Seventh and Eighth grade uniform will consist of the band shirt, black pants (not jeans), black shoes (not tennis shoes) and black socks. Cost of the band shirt will be \$20.

C. **High School Band** - Membership in the Martin Luther King Wind Ensemble should be the goal of each of our students. It is our intention that this group will become the flagship wind ensemble in the state. Through diligent practice and desire, the band will be able to perform grade VI concert literature as well as a varied program of multicultural works. This group will be attired in tuxedos and black gowns. Membership in the wind ensemble is by audition only and students are expected to maintain the highest standards of musical excellence, work ethic, and behavior. Membership in the wind ensemble is a privilege that may be revoked by the band directors if it is determined that a student is not meeting these standards.

The Symphonic Band (for Chancery purposes, Concert Band 2, 3, and 4) will consist of students who have not yet attained the musical mastery to earn membership in the wind ensemble. These students are not considered less important, but rather, the future of our band program. This ensemble will continue to study the basics of music while performing music that is suited for their musical knowledge and skill, and while enjoying musical self expression. Again, students shall maintain the highest standards of work ethic and behavior. Attire for the Symphonic band will be the same as the Wind Ensemble. All will wear black shoes.

The Concert Band (for Chancery purposes, Concert Band I) will consist of students including but not limited to our 9th graders. They will perform a minimum of three concerts a year. Their attire will be black pants/skirt (not jeans) and a white button-down shirt or button-down blouse. This band will continue to improve their technique and musical skills while playing grade appropriate literature. This will eventually include Grade IV and Grade V literature.

D. High school and Middle school Jazz Band will be offered this year. The Jazz Band is and will probably continue to be a constantly evolving ensemble. The jazz bands will meet after school. Admission is voluntary and upon the approval of the directors. Members of the Jazz Band must be members of the MLK Band program in order to be eligible to participate.

E. **Percussion Ensemble**- The Percussion Ensemble will be offered on a voluntary basis and is offered after school to any percussionist currently participating in the MLK Band program. As with all after school activities consistent attendance will be mandatory or the programs will be canceled. Admission to the percussion ensemble is based upon the approval of the directors.

Chamber ensembles such as brass quintets, woodwind quintets, and other smaller groups will be formed from time to time and at the directors' discretion.

WE DO NOT WANT TO EXCLUDE ANYONE FROM PARTICIPATING IN BAND DUE TO NEED. ANYONE UNABLE TO OBTAIN THE PROPER CONCERT ATTIRE SHOULD TALK WITH THE BAND DIRECTORS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO THAT WE CAN HELP. EACH MATTER WILL BE HANDLED INDIVIDUALLY AND DISCREETLY.

II. SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES.

A. Solo and Ensemble - This is an individual learning activity for the student. Students prepare and perform for an adjudicator and receive a rating. **WE ARE GOING TO MAKE PREPARATION FOR SOLO & ENSEMBLE A REQUIREMENT.** What this means is that ALL band students will prepare a solo or an ensemble for the actual event with the idea that they will register and perform their selection(s) for an MTSBOA adjudicator. If, for whatever reason, a student opts to not go to solo & ensemble, or if there is a conflict with the solo & ensemble dates, the student may prepare a solo (**not an ensemble**) and then perform that selection for the directors at MLK. This option is not open to the Wind Ensemble, however they will have 4 different sites and dates to choose from. It is the Wind Ensemble students' responsibility to register at the appropriate date for the appropriate site. These will be posted in the band room. The band directors will help students choose music and prepare for the event. Students will perform their music for the directors prior to participating in the event. We as directors reserve the right to prevent the student from participating if it is determined that they are unprepared. The Solo and Ensemble fee is non-refundable.

Solo and Ensemble Site	Registration Deadline	Event Date
Clarksville	Jan. 19	Feb. 19
Gallatin/Cookeville	March 9	April 9
Columbia	March 23	April 23
Overton	March 30	April 30

B. Mid-State and All-State Honor Band - Students may choose to audition for honor band. This is required for all Wind Ensemble students. If selected, you will attend the All Mid State Honor Band clinic at MTSU on the week of January 13-15. All State is April 13-16. Seventh, eighth and ninth grade students audition for Junior High Mid-State while tenth, eleventh, and twelfth graders audition for High School Mid-State and All State. Audition dates are High School, December 4, Middle School, December 11, both at McGavock High School. The cost is \$7 per student per audition. Audition requirements for Junior High Mid-State include required music, sight reading and the following scales: concert Db, Ab, Eb, Bb, F, C, G, D and chromatic. High school students audition on required pieces, sight reading, all major scales and chromatic. Percussion students please see the directors due to changes in the audition procedure. We have all required music for all instruments available for you. Students that are **prepared** and audition for Mid-state will be given a 100 for their playing objective for that 6 weeks. Being selected to the Mid-State Band is the highest honor a band student can receive in our area. All-State status often brings with it college scholarships. Get started early.

C. Concert Festival - The MLK Bands have historically attended the MTSBOA Concert Festival and received very high ratings. This year's concert festival will be held the week of March 7-11, 2005 at Vanderbilt. You will receive more information about this activity at a later date.

D. State Concert Festival- The MLK Wind Ensemble as a result of their stellar performance at last year's MTSBOA concert festival has been invited to participate in Tennessee's first-ever State Concert Festival. This is a wonderful honor that was bestowed upon only 13 of the 96 bands that performed at the 2004 MTSBOA concert festival. This will take place April 26-28, 2005 at Vanderbilt. **Congratulations Wind Ensemble!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

D. Private lessons - There is no substitute for private instruction in the pursuit of musical excellence. Wind Ensemble students are required to take private lessons. All others are especially encouraged to take private lessons. The cost of these lessons will be approximately \$15 per lesson. We have carefully selected these instructors because we feel that they are the best in our area. We have a limited number of scholarships for students with financial hardships. Additionally, students are encouraged to audition for acceptance to the Blair and W.O. Smith Schools of music.

III. EXPENSES

A. Fair Share - Each students' fair share of this year's budget will be \$150. This will be used to defray the cost of music, metro instrument repairs, stands, supplies, etc. This does not mean that the band fee is \$150. This means that there is an option to participate in the fund raisers for this amount. If you do not wish to participate in these fund raisers, you may make checks payable to MLK Bands. Because Metro has reduced the budget for instrument repairs, this money is more vital than ever to our program. With almost 300 students in band this year we continue to be in desperate need of instruments, music, and the day to day supplies that a band program utilizes. (This is not part of the T shirt fee for middle schoolers.) Should your schedule change and you are no longer in the band, this fee is non-refundable.

To provide examples of other programs fees in Metro:

John Overton High - \$1000

McGavock High- \$1200

B. Fund raisers - We will begin our first fund raiser in September. We only have one pickup date for the fruit sale which will be in December. If our goals are met this semester, we will not have to have a fund raiser in the second semester. Thank you for supporting our growing program.

C. Materials for class - Students are responsible for having the following items for class:

1) Instrument - Each student should have their instrument for class each and every day. Instruments should be in proper playing condition and should be cleaned and cared for regularly. Many of our students are obtaining top of the line professional instruments, such as silver plated "Bach" trumpets, open holed flutes, wooden clarinets, F-attachment trombones, and upper line saxophones. These students are experiencing better tone quality, intonation, and technical facility. Please call one of the band directors before you take this important step. We can make suggestions as to brands and models that would best suit your child. We may also have contacts that may save you money on your purchase. Students that have instruments being repaired should bring a signed note from their parent(s) to be excused (include work and home phone numbers). In this case the student will be given work that is to be completed during class. Students without a note or instrument will receive a zero for the day and will be required to do written work.

2) Each student will be required to purchase a 3-ring binder with page protectors for their music. Each piece of music will be returned at the end of the semester. Students may be charged for lost music. For students in beginning band and 7th grade advanced band, the text will be STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE Book I. For members in all of our other band classes, in order to save students money, the band has purchased warm-up books.

3) It is each student's responsibility to have their accessories for class. These items include but are not limited to valve oil, reeds, ligatures, pencils, etc.etc.

4) Reeds/Mouthpieces - All students will be required to have their own mouthpieces. After determining your individual strengths and weaknesses, we may suggest a mouthpiece for you. Please know that if we do this, it is our firm belief that this will make you a BETTER MUSICIAN. Clarinet and saxophone players should use Vandoren reeds. Students should always have three(3) reeds available. Reeds are available at any music store.

IV. CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR

A. Students should move into the band room in an orderly fashion. Due to the growth of the band program there is a serious shortage of space for our students to move in and out. Because of this limited amount of space, horseplay, normally frowned upon, will absolutely not be tolerated. This is in consideration of potential damage to the expensive instruments that are in the band room, and the possibility of personal injury due to foolishness. Students should get their music and instrument and move directly to their seats, they should warm up softly, when a director steps onto the podium, that is the signal for everyone to be quiet and for class to begin.

B. Disrespect in any form will not be tolerated. Webster's Dictionary defines band as, "a company of persons working for a common purpose." Therefore, to be disrespectful to your peers disrupts the fabric of the band program. The band directors will always treat you with the respect that we expect from the student.

C. Keep hands, feet, and negative comments to yourself. Always strive to be supportive of one another.

D. Never throw anything in the band room. There are too many expensive instruments in the room to take that chance.

E. Gum, food and drink are not allowed in the band room during school hours. Our custodial staff works diligently to maintain a clean educational environment. We owe it to them to aid in that endeavor. If you see trash in the band room, please pick it up and dispose of it, even if it is not yours!!

F. Students must be in the band room by the tardy bell. Once in the classroom, students are to put their instrument together, organize their materials, etc. Class will begin 5 min. after the tardy bell. Students will be allowed 1 tardy per 6 weeks with no penalty. The second penalty will result in sunset/sunrise.

G. Students are expected to represent the school and the band program in the most positive way. This is especially true for our band concerts. Students are to stay for the entire concert and experience the hard work and diligent efforts displayed by their peers. This means not only a supportive attitude, but also proper behavior at all band functions. **Students will listen and not talk during performances.** They will arrive on time and sit with their families. They are to stay in uniform until the final group has performed. Concert behavior is an area in which we would like to make great improvements upon this year. Please help us make our concerts enjoyable for everyone.

GRADING POLICY

A. Daily Grades - Each student begins every six weeks with 100 points. Deductions are made for missing class materials. These deductions include 10 points for every day you cannot perform. This includes instrument, reeds, mouthpieces, etc. Other deductions include 5 points for missing accessories such as pencil, music, mute, etc.

B. Performance Grades - A grade will be given for each performance. Performances will count as much as a major written test would count in another class. **THESE EVENTS ARE ABSOLUTELY**

REQUIRED. Any reason that would excuse your absence from a major exam, such as death in the family, illness, etc. will be excused for the performance. This will need to be in writing and signed by your parents. There is really no way to make up a performance. On the grading periods where there are no performances, another playing test will be given in lieu of this grade.

C. Playing Grades - Various assignments ranging from technical studies to passages from music will be assigned for a playing grade. One should think of these as quizzes in their other classes. Written tests will also be given from time to time and will count as playing grades. Seventh grade parents, please refer to your child's grading handout for more details.

This year we will give a written test at the end of every grading period. This six weeks test will include musical terms, basic music theory, and counting techniques covered during the grading period.

D. Practice records - The directors will check Agenda Books each Monday for Seventh and Eight grade to verify time practiced and parent signature. Other classes may be assigned practice records if deemed necessary by the instructors. The MLK Honor Code will apply to all practice records and written exams.

Credit will be given as follows:

140 min. and above - A
130-139 min. - B
120-129 min.- C
110-119 min. - D

Below 110 is an F.

Failure to show directors the Agenda book will result in a weekly practice grade of 0. Students who are currently taking private lessons are exempt from turning in practice records, however private lesson teachers will submit a weekly recommended lesson grade. This will be taken into consideration by the band directors in lieu of practice records. Students will need to bring the directors a note from parents stating that the student is taking private lessons if it is from an instructor outside MLK. Students taking private lessons may be put back on practice records at the discretion of the directors.

We strongly encourage parents to **LISTEN TO YOUR CHILD** play their instrument each week. The encouragement and support you provide is invaluable in promoting self-esteem and love of music.

VI. REWARD SYSTEMS

Special rewards are given throughout the year for outstanding accomplishment and effort. Special awards will be given at a program at the end of the year at the band banquet.

VII. ATTENDANCE POLICY

Band members are expected to make ALL performances; band is a performance class. Excused absences would include illness, a death in the immediate family, religious holiday, or other reasons as deemed excusable by the directors. Unexcused absences from a performance will make it difficult to receive a passing grade in band. Parents will be given a calendar with all after school activities. Any absence from an after school rehearsal should be cleared and excused by the director IN ADVANCE. Any absence from the regular class period must follow the policy and procedure set up the MLK Magnet School. Excused absences from extracurricular rehearsals and all performances will be granted only in the event of an extreme emergency and must be approved by the band director in advance!! Failure to follow these procedures regarding absences will result in the absence being deemed as unexcused. It is the student's responsibility to notify the directors of a potential absence. Unexcused tardiness per grading period will result, as per MLK policy, in the following:

Tardy #1 Warning
Tardy #2 Sunrise/Sunset
Tardy #3 Sunrise/Sunset

We operate on a minimal rehearsal time and therefore it is imperative that students be in class, on time, with the right materials. Students who are tardy risk being moved to the last chair in the section.

VII. BUS RULES

1. Only our students, school personnel and chaperones are allowed to ride the bus.
2. Students will go and return on the the same bus.
3. Students may return home with a parent only if they have arranged to do so. A note from the parent is required and needs to be initialed by the band director and given by the student to their chaperone.
4. Students should stay in their seats while the bus is in motion.
5. Loud, boisterous, profane language, or indecent behavior will not be tolerated.
6. There is to be no food or drink on school buses unless special permission is given.
7. There is to be no smoking or alcoholic beverages on band trips.
8. No windows or doors should be opened or closed without permission of the bus driver.
9. Upon arrival at a destination, students are to stay seated until given permission from the director or head chaperone.
10. At the conclusion of the trip, all students need to clean their areas of the bus.
11. THE METRO SCHOOLS ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY IS IN EFFECT ON ALL BAND TRIPS.

**MARTIN LUTHER KING MAGNET SCHOOL
BAND AGREEMENT**

In becoming a member of the MLK band, I agree to do my personal best to achieve excellence both musically and personally. I realize that conscientious attendance and preparation for rehearsals and performance are essential for the MLK band to operate successfully. I promise to treat my peers and directors with mutual respect. I fully understand the conditions set forth in this handbook and agree to abide by them.

In addition, by signing this document, we (parent and student) agree to pay our fair share of \$150 by fund raising, profit or direct payment by the end of December. Grades may be withheld for non-payment.

Student Signature _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Student's Name (Print) _____

Date _____