

Mandeville High School Skipper Band 2011-2012

Skipper Band/Color Guard Handbook 2011-2012

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PREFACE

The purpose of this handbook is to provide information about the band program at Mandeville High School. It will be of value to all members of the program and their families if proper attention is given. The handbook contains a wealth of information to help you understand what it means to be a member of this award winning organization. It is designed to help you become more familiar with the program as it is today and as the directors want it to develop. This handbook is practical; as well as informational. The band program rules and regulations are also specified. Students should share the handbook with their parents. **Parents, please complete, remove and return all forms and payments which are found at the end of the handbook. These are due no later than Monday, July 18th at music camp practice from 6pm – 8pm. Please arrive early !!**

Being a member of the Mandeville High School Skipper Band is a privilege afforded to all students who have the appropriate instrumental, dancing, or twirling background or skills. Please read this handbook carefully as all materials (i.e. dates, procedures, rules and regulations) for the band to function successfully are incorporated. The student contract at the end of this document **must be turned in**. If the contract is not turned in you will not be aloud to participate. Please make a note of all dates and expectations required of you and keep this booklet handy should any questions arise.

Look forward to meeting all of you and building a superior band in the state of Louisiana.

Rossi DiBenedetto
Director of Bands, Mandeville High School

Philosophy and Goals

The Band Programs at Mandeville High School should strive for perfection in every ensemble. The short term goal for these programs is to increase participation of students, receive Superior ratings at local and state competitions, and to increase the passion and energy of the ensembles.

The long term goal for Mandeville High School is to be considered one of the top programs in the state of Louisiana and throughout the nation. The following characteristics will help us define a superior band program:

For Students:

- 1.) High Energy, Enthusiasm, and Passion about the Instrumental Ensembles at Mandeville High School.
- 2.) Dedication to the band programs. Each member is very important.
- 3.) Organizational skills. (We will work on organizing and having balance throughout your life).
- 4.) Develop short term goals for you as well as the ensemble and to make the band as good as you desire.
- 5.) Hard work = Success
- 6.) Drum Majors and Section Leaders, it is very important to know your role and what characteristics are in a great leader.
- 7.) Pride, leadership, teamwork, responsibility, and hard work are some of the important life skills that your student will learn.
- 8.) Having fun knowing that you are increasing your skills by practicing to be successful in performances and competitions.
- 9.) Being a role-model to younger students and setting a good example of what it takes to be a member of the Mandeville High School Marching Band.
- 10.) Coming to rehearsals prepared and ready to learn quickly.
- 11.) Be respectful to advisors and peers.
- 12.) High level of student satisfaction.
- 13.) **Most Important: Learning more than just music. Learning life skills that will help you become successful after high school.**

Responsibility:

Every musician in every band assumes certain responsibilities simply by being a member and in the Mandeville High Skipper Band this is even more important. Unlike your other classes, everything you do affects every person in the ensemble, as well as how the public perceives the group. When you appear with the band, whether it is in rehearsal, or riding a bus, please conduct yourself in the highest respect for the school and community. **Note: You are always performing for someone; someone is always watching you (You will hear this a lot this year from myself).** You are a role model to younger students who look up to you and one day will also want to become a member of this very fine ensemble. Do everything you can to earn the privilege of being a member of our organization. Make sure you know the exact dates, times, and places of future activities, exactly where and when you have to report, and what you are to wear. **It is very important to be organized and keep some kind of calendar or date book so you can remember important dates of practices and performances.** Things you can do to help the Mandeville High Marching Band have a successful year:

- Be able to play your part well. Practice!! If you need help ask your section leader, drum major, or myself.
- Be sure your parents know of your schedule, your commitments, and your responsibilities. Share all announcements and calendars with them well ahead of time.
- Keep extra reeds, oils, strings. etc, available at all times.
- Be respectful of your section leaders and drum majors and let them be able to do their job well.

- Be courteous to musical organizations from other schools.
- Be courteous and friendly to your classmates. You will receive back exactly what you give out.

For Parents:

A Band program cannot be successful without help from the parents. To be willing to help out whenever you can is so important to the development of the band. Some ways a parent can help out

- 1.) Become an officer in the music booster's organization.
- 2.) Sign-up to chair certain committees.
- 3.) Sign-up to help in certain committees.
- 4.) Push your daughter/son to strive for perfection in everything they are a part of (not just music).
- 5.) **Make sure students are on time to practices/performances.**
- 6.) Attend practices or competitions and show support.

General Rules/Consequences

- 1.) **All members will abide by the Mandeville High School Code of Conduct and subsequent consequences at all times.**
- 2.) **Attendance** – The guidelines governing attendance (both during school and after-school activities) and the effect it has on grading is described below.
 - A.) Absences: The only excused absences are for personal illness, death in the family, and a school related activity. An absence from an after school rehearsal or performance is not excused unless the student was absent from school on that day.
 - B.) **Please schedule routine checkups and regular appointments around the band's rehearsal schedule. (When one person is absent it affects ALL members of the ensemble). We need to strive for perfection in this area and not let down other members of the ensemble. Marching Band is like a sports team if you are missing a player it affects the whole group.**
 - C.) If any conflicts arise please let Mr. DiBenedetto know ASAP.
 - D.) If you are involved in another sport or club, Mr. DiBenedetto and the coach or sponsor will work together to split the student's time. It is the student's responsibility to let Mr. DiBenedetto know of any such conflicts. **Performances and competitions with the band take precedence over rehearsals and practices of other activities.**
 - E.) **During marching Season (August-November) the band will rehearse Tuesday from 5:30pm-8:30pm and Monday and Thursday afternoons from 3:00-5:00 PM. Make sure you are early and ready to go for these important practices. Tennis shoes are REQUIRED. The colorguard will practice with the band for every practice when school begins. PRACTICES ARE MANDATORY!!!!**
 - F.) During rehearsals and performances, the students are expected to have all of his/her equipment in working order and to be on time. Rehearsals will move rather quickly. It is important for students to stay focused and have discipline at all times. Under no circumstances will talking or moving around be allowed during rehearsals. **The more we focus in practice, the better our performances will be and the more success we will have.**

IF YOU'RE ON-TIME YOU ARE LATE. IF YOU ARE EARLY YOU ARE ON-TIME.

You will hear this quote many times this season and it will be posted in front of the room along with many other quotes that will be beneficial to our success.

- 3.) Use or possession of any controlled substance is strictly prohibited and will result in immediate dismissal from the marching band.
- 4.) Use of profanity will not be permitted at any time.
- 5.) Students are expected to use polite, respectful behavior at all times. Insubordination will not be tolerated. Students are to show respect and common courtesy to all directors, adult supervisors, and peers at all times. Consequences will be at the discretion of the director and may result in school disciplinary action.
- 6.) Louisiana Revised Code prohibits harassment, personal degradation, hazing, or initiation of any kind. Consequences will be at the discretion of the director and may result in school disciplinary action.
- 7.) Students will have all equipment and necessary materials at ALL rehearsals.
- 8.) Students will have respect for all school and personal instruments.
- 9.) Have a pencil at ALL times on the field and inside during rehearsals.
- 10.) Correct rehearsal posture. (We will go over this at rehearsal)
- 11.) Absolutely NO playing or talking when director(s) or drum majors are on the podium.
- 12.) Reed students please have three working reeds available every day.
- 13.) Bring water/sunscreen
- 14.) Tennis shoes must be worn at all times.
- 15.) Have respect for all of your peers.
- 16.) Proper clothing for marching is to be worn. NO pants that hang over shoes.

Every student has the right to learn and participate. NO student has the right to take that away. There will be NO toleration of disruptions in the classroom or on the field.

Grading Scale and Assignments

Performances/Nine Weeks Assignments	=	40%
Rehearsals/Behavior	=	40%
Exam	=	20%
 Total	 =	 100%

Performances: 40%

The Performance grade is worth 40% of your overall grade. This includes performances such as Football Games, Competitions, Pep-Rally's, parades, and anything else the band is performing for. The grade includes conduct at these events and also responsibility for all equipment and necessary materials for performances. This includes: instruments, reeds, mouth piece, sticks/mallets, guard equipment, uniform, shoes, and proper socks.

Rehearsals/Behavior: 40%

Every practice during school time or after school will consist of a 5 point system. Students will receive full points if they attend rehearsal ready to focus and are prepared for that rehearsal. Students will lose a point for talking, misbehavior, and lack of focus. Students will lose multiple points for not having instruments, music, drill charts, proper shoes, and tardiness.

If a student misses a rehearsal without proper acknowledgement and consent from Mr. DiBenedetto, that student will lose 8% of his overall final grade in marching band. A student should never miss rehearsal without a proper reason. In order for us to be successful every member of the Mandeville High School Marching Band must uphold their responsibility to the ensemble. PLEASE SEE ATTENDANCE POLICY SECTION.

First Nine Weeks: Rhythm Charts

First year students must complete Charts #2 - #6. All other students must complete five additional charts through chart #32. After a student reaches chart #32, students must complete two charts per nine weeks. Students may schedule an appointment with Mr. DiBenedetto at any time during the first nine weeks to be tested. It is highly recommended that students do not wait until the last week to do this. Get them done early!!!

Exam: The exam will be a short simple written music theory test. This test will cover concepts we go over in class. I will also prepare a short study guide for this exam that we will go over in class prior to taking the final.

Second Nine Weeks: Rhythm Charts

First year students must complete Charts #7 - #11. All other students must complete five additional charts through chart #32. After chart #32, students must complete two charts per nine weeks. Students may schedule an appointment with Mr. DiBenedetto at anytime during the second nine weeks to be tested. It is highly recommended that students do not wait until the last week to do this. Get them done early!!!

Exam: The exam will be a short simple written music theory test. This test will cover concepts we go over in class. I will also prepare a short study guide for this exam that we will go over in class prior to taking the final.

Third Nine Weeks: Scales

9th Grade – must pass off Concert G, D, and A Scales

10th Grade – must pass off Concert E, B, and F#

11th Grade – must pass off ALL Sharp scales – Concert G, D, A, E, B, F#, and C#

12th Grade – must pass off ALL Sharp scales - Concert G, D, A, E, B, F#, and C#

- This should be very simple as we will do scales everyday in our concert bands.
- Please set up a time with me at anytime during the third nine weeks to pass off scales.

Fourth Nine Weeks: Scales

9th Grade – must pass off Concert F, Bb, and Eb scales

10th Grade – must pass off Concert Ab, Db, and Gb scales

11th Grade – must pass off All Flat Scales – Concert F, Bb, Eb, Ab, Db, Gb, and Cb.

12th Grade - must pass off All Flat Scales – Concert F, Bb, Eb, Ab, Db, Gb, and Cb.

- This should be very simple as we will do scales everyday in our concert bands.
- Please set up a time with me at anytime during the fourth nine weeks to pass off scales.

Final Exam: The exam will be a short simple written music theory test. This test will cover concepts we go over in class. I will also prepare a short study guide for this exam that we will go over in class prior to taking the final.

Procedures

Procedure when entering a music rehearsal

- 1.) Come in. Leave personal belongings at the side of the room.
- 2.) Set-up instrument and get out music. (**DO NOT PLAY!!**)
- 3.) Be seated ready to go when the directors are ready.
- 4.) You will have 2 minutes after the bell to be ready to play. No not walk around talking to friends
- 5.) Put music in order as written on the board.
- 6.) Have out warm-ups as this will be the first thing we always do

We will warm-up everyday with the same warm-ups. You will have a packet of warm-ups to keep. The warm-up procedure is as follows:

- 1.) **Breathing Exercises**
- 2.) **Long-tones – Concert Bb, C, D, Eb, F or 1,2,3,4,5**
- 3.) **Lip-Slurs**
- 4.) **Scales – We will start with the Concert Bb scale and slowly increase our scale knowledge**
- 5.) **Listening activity – Will explain in first rehearsals**
- 6.) **Tuning**

The warm-up procedure should only last 4-5 minutes and will move very quickly. Proper warm-up is important to our success. The warm-up procedure will be explained in detail at our first practice and is very simple. This warm-up will also help students learn their scales well in advance for their nine week assignment grade.

Correct Playing Posture

- 1.) Both feet flat on the floor.
- 2.) Backs away from the back of the chair.
- 3.) Sit up straight
- 4.) Instrument angles at correct positions
- 5.) No Hats in class

Procedure for Outside Rehearsal

Every time we go outside or start outside for practice we will form our fundamental block. This block will be introduced the first day and students are expected to know their spot. We will use this for attendance, announcements, and marching fundamental practice. After fundamental block, section and squad leaders will take their sections and work on problems in their sections marching fundamentals.

Transportation Policy

All students are expected to ride the bus to and from field trip destinations.

In the event a student will need to use transportation other than the bus provided by MHS, the sponsor (Mr. Rossi DiBenedetto) must have a written notice from the student's parent/legal guardian relieving the sponsor and MHS of any liability, PRIOR to the day of the field trip. The person driving must come to Mr. DiBenedetto to have the student signed out and released to their supervision. Students are not allowed to drive themselves.

If a student misses a bus, the parent is responsible for making sure the student is driven to the performance. Upon arriving at the performance the parent will find Mr. DiBenedetto to explain the situation and leave the student. The student will ride home on the bus with the band; he/she may only participate if they are returning home with the band.

Because these rules allow for accurate roll to be checked, they will ensure that your child's whereabouts can be accounted for during any trip. Rest assured that we will not leave a field trip until all students who are supposed to be on the bus are, indeed, on the bus.

Fees & Expenses

Every member of the MHS Skipper Band will need to pay \$125.00 band fee.

The band fee includes:

- **Providing the band with 3-4 uniform cleanings a year**
- **White gloves for performances**
- **Music**
- **Maintenance of school instruments**
- **Materials**
- **Competition shows**
- **Full staff for the band.**

Nearly every high school band program in St. Tammany parish has a band fee. Some schools fee is double this amount. This year our band fee will be \$125.00. This is \$25.00 less than last year.

\$125.00 – Band Fee (DUE MONDAY JUNE 18TH at MUSIC CAMP PRACTICE 6-8 PM)

The student must also turn in an order form to order the following items which is part of our uniform. The order form is attached at the end of the hand book. The orders and money are also due Monday June 18th at music camp. Every member must order what they need (Freshman will need everything). These are items that the students will need for performances with the band. If a student does not have these items they cannot perform with the band, therefore, their grade will be affected. Any financial concerns please see Mr. DiBenedetto and we will work them out together. Every member must have:

- **Marching shoes**
- **Uniform Shorts**
- **Uniform Shirt**
- **Uniform Travel/Pep Warm-ups (New this year!!! Everybody will have to get one. This is why I dropped down the overall fee).**

Not Included in the 2 fees but students MUST have before band camp:

- **Flip folder (available at any music store) MUST BE OBTAINED BEFORE BAND CAMP STARTS, WE WILL USE THE FLIP FOLDERS ON THE FIELD TO HELP WITH LEARNING OF DRILL AND MUSIC.**
- **Black socks (no patterns or decorations)**
- **Lyre to hold flip folder (You should bring your instrument with you when purchasing since different brands of instruments may require different lyres.)**
- **Ear plugs (Percussionist)**

Student Obligations

Band Members

A Mandeville High School Marching Band member is a student who has, by choice, committed and dedicated him/herself to the goals and philosophy of the music department of the school. One's personal objective is to always be a successful part of the total unit and to strive to help others achieve the same goal.

Drum Major

The Drum Majors are the primary student leaders of the marching band. This is an auditioned position that students may try-out for after one year in the marching band. If selected, drum majors are required to attend a one week summer camp as designated by Mr. DiBenedetto. Prior camp experience does not fulfill this obligation.

Responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Conducting the band
- Warm-ups
- Help with learning drill
- Take fundamental block role and inside rehearsal role
- Lead fundamentals
- Monitor the overall conduct, spirit, and morale of the band.

The Drum Majors answer directly to the directors and the adult staff of the band.

Drum Majors should be a great role model and an example for the band to follow at all times, on and off the field.

Section/Squad Leaders

Section/Squad Leader is an interviewed position. They are chosen during the June and July months of summer music camps (before Pre-Camp practice). Section/Squad Leaders will be chosen on both their marching and playing abilities, as well as their leadership potential.

Responsibilities include:

- Assisting members with music
- Memorization and marching fundamentals
- Assisting with music sectionals
- Provide the highest possible example of playing, marching, conduct, and attitude.

The Section/Squad leaders will answer directly to the directors and adult staff.

Percussion Captain

The percussion captain serves as the leader of the percussion section.

Responsibilities include:

- Assisting with percussion rehearsal.
- Assisting percussion section in learning their music and drill
- Ensuring all necessary percussion equipment to be used at performances is loaded on the proper vehicles for the trip or event.
- Conduct visual inspections of percussionist uniforms
- Conduct themselves in a professional manner, be a role model and strive for perfection in everything they do.

Percussion Co-Captain

The Percussion Co-Captain serves in the absence of the Percussion Captain. Other duties include:

- Assist percussion captain in duties.
- Help students learn music and drill
- Conduct themselves in a professional manner, be a role model and strive for perfection in everything they do.

BAND COUNCIL

**The following offices will be elected each spring prior to next year's band.
(Except this year we will not fill these positions until next spring for the following 2012-2013 season)
Band Council meets once a month for a meeting to discuss ideas to improve the band. These students are also the leaders of the band. Drum Majors, Section/Squad leaders, Percussion Captain, and band members can be elected for these positions while they hold other band positions.**

Band President (senior position)

The band president shall be responsible for overseeing all student band projects and responsibility to other officers with the band council. The president must promote the general welfare of the band through exemplary performance and attitude.

Band Vice President (junior or senior position)

The Vice President shall assist in the above duties and act as the president in his/her absence. The Vice President shall preside at all officer meetings. He/She will also be the primary assistant to all remaining officers.

Band Secretary (sophomore, junior or senior position)

The Secretary will be responsible for keeping all written records of band activities including minutes of the officers meetings and assists at attendance with the drum majors.

Band Librarian (sophomore, junior or senior position)

The bands librarian will be responsible for the organization, distribution, and collection of music. The librarian will be responsible for keeping the band library database accurate and current.

Band Social Chair (sophomore, junior or senior position)

The Social Chair is responsible for student moral. He/She also helps plan social events for the band, for example, the end of band camp party. The Social Chair will also plan evening social activities for band camp.

- All Officers will be voted on by all members of the band. All candidates will have the opportunity, if desired, to talk to the band briefly about their qualifications and how they want to see the band develop.

Attendance

I.) Attendance Policy

You are expected to attend all performances and rehearsals for the marching band. (See Marching Band Calendar) If you cannot attend a scheduled rehearsal you must notify Mr. DiBenedetto ASAP of absence. ONLY absences that will constitute as excused are:

- 1.) Death in the Family
- 2.) Personal Illness
- 3.) Family vacation – Please try to schedule vacation time around rehearsals and performances **especially band camp**. Missing Band Camp will put the student very far behind. This will set back the rest of the band from being able to learn more of the show.

I plan in the future giving the whole marching schedule out for the next year after our Winter Holiday Break so that families can plan around Band Camp and rehearsals. This year is much different since I was hired a month before practices need to start. Please do all you can to be at rehearsals since it is critical to our success. Thank you for your understanding in this matter. Next year you will have over 6 months notice for our music schedule.

Thank you

IMPORTANT: THE FOLLOWING ARE NOT EXCUSED ABSENCES: WORK, COLLEGE VISITATIONS, AND NON-SANCTIONED SCHOOL EVENTS.

Band members must attend all rehearsals and performances. All rehearsals will begin and end on time. **If we want a good band, this is one of the core values that we must uphold. Always be at practice early and ready to go.** Members who are not in their place at the designated time without proper equipment will be marked absent or tardy. **Consequences for arriving late will be running and other physical activities. Repeated tardiness will lead to ejection from the marching band.**

II.) Conflicts

Every effort possible will be made to schedule our performances around choir and other school events; **however, should a conflict arise you must notify BOTH ADVISORS immediately.** At that time, your other advisor and I will come up with a mutually agreed upon solution. The key to this is proper and timely **communication!!** Participating in Fall Sports will be very hard with marching band since we have after school practices that are crucial for you to be there.

“If your on-time YOU ARE LATE, if you are early you are ON-TIME”

Mr. DiBenedetto’s most famous quote

Football Games

- 1.) Good bands look organized at **ALL** times. Conduct of the band at football games is a vital portion of the impression we leave with the community. One of our main functions on Friday nights is to show our school spirit and support for the team.
- 2.) All band members are to stay alert and pay attention to the game. We may need to play at moments notice. When we play in the stands, everyone stands and participates.
- 3.) As when in class, there will be **NO** food, candy, gum or drinks allowed while in uniform with the exception of drinks distributed to all students by band chaperones.
- 4.) No one is to play an instrument individually. Play only when the entire band or percussion is playing.
- 5.) **Since the seating area is one of the stages for the band's performance, only uniformed members of the MHS Skipper Band and chaperones will be allowed into the area. Students will be expected to help enforce this guideline by communicating this to friends and relatives.**
- 6.) **PLEASE NEVER STEP ON BLEACHER SEATS**
- 7.) No high school age chaperones are allowed at band performances. Chaperones must be approved by Mr. DiBenedetto. (i.e., "Friends" cannot march with the band in parades, etc.)

Competitions/Festivals

Like last year, we will be attending several marching band competitions. In order to compete, a student must show adequate knowledge of their music (both performance and memorization) as well as adequate knowledge of the drill. If a student does not achieve this prior to the competition, they will not be permitted to march. This will be determined by recommendations from the band directors, assistant directors, and section leaders. The rationale of this policy is for the good of the entire organization. If one person does not know their show, it will decrease the overall performance of the band. **Each student is responsible for making this band successful, and will be held to that standard.**

Buses Rules

- 1.) Students are to follow ALL bus rules at ALL times.
- 2.) Students are to show respect to the driver and chaperones.
- 3.) No food, gum, drinks etc. on the bus at anytime unless the driver says so.
- 4.) All members are required to use provided transportation to and from all events unless pre-excused by the director.

Instrument/Equipment Care

- 1.) Use of a school instrument is a school privilege. Students are responsible for the well being of their instrument at all times. Damages other than normal wear and tear will be the financial responsibility of the student.
- 2.) Equipment is to be cased properly.
- 3.) Students are responsible for having all necessary items and keeping their instruments in good working conditions at all times.
- 4.) Equipment is not to be left unattended. When left, instruments are to be placed in a secure location.
- 5.) **DO NOT** play other students' instruments.

Website

All forms, schedules, and information can be found on Mandeville High School Marching Skipper Band Website at:

<http://mandevillehighband.org/>

Band Camp

- 1.) **Band Camp is the most important two weeks of the year. A successful camp is the first step to a successful season.**

See Calendar: July 11th – 15th, July 18th, and July 25th – 29th.

Basketball Games

This year we are starting a pep band for basketball games. This is NOT a mandatory ensemble but who ever would like to play when their schedule allows them to may play. We will be playing new hit songs off the radio. We will also be adding electric guitars, bass, and a keyboard player. The goal for this ensemble is to have FUN cheering for the basketball team and showing support for our school. A sign up list for all home games will be posted after marching season.

Dress Code Policy

PERSONAL APPEARANCE

The personal appearance of an individual is important. In no way is this program trying to suppress the individuality of the members. However, all audience focus must be on the group, not the individual. Therefore, when in uniform, the following guidelines will be enforced:

- 1.) No jewelry...watches rings, earrings, body piercing, and necklaces.
The hair must be worn inside the hat for marching band. Distracting hair colors also violate policy.
- 2.) Make up for female members can only be as follows while in uniform.
 - a. Eye shadow, eyeliner, lipstick, foundation and nail polish will not be allowed.
- 3.) Colorguard make-up will be determined by the directors
- 4.) All make-up will be done before inspection. At no time will band members be applying make-up in the stands.
- 5.) When the uniform is designated to be worn, it is to be worn in its entirety. The jacket may not be unzipped or removed and the suspenders must be worn. Hats and gloves may be removed with director's permission.

Attire for travel and rehearsal must be conservative and modest. This year we will have a travel warm-up uniform. The directors understand the physical nature of marching band. Rehearsal clothing should accommodate ease of movement and comfort while maintaining proper decorum. Tennis/running shoes are to be worn at all times other than when in uniform. (Exceptions may apply if you are told to do otherwise by the director)

Parish Honor Band

The St. Tammany Parish Honor Band will hold auditions in November. See the calendar for the audition, rehearsal, and performance dates. **Students that are unable to attend all rehearsals and the performance should not audition.** Usually, one rehearsal is scheduled during the school day. The audition material will be posted on the District IX web page. www.district9.info

The audition requirements for the Parish Honor Band are as follows:

- 1.) The student must be a member of their high school band program
- 2.) The student must furnish a \$5.00 audition fee.
- 3.) The student must make arrangements for his/her transportation to and from audition and rehearsal/concerts (if selected).

The Parish Honor Band is an excellent opportunity for high school musicians. Students are strongly encouraged to audition and represent Mandeville High School. Please begin preparations early and ask Mr. DiBenedetto for any help you might need and he will be glad to help and listen.

District Honor Band

The District Honor Band will hold auditions at Southeastern Louisiana University. See the calendar for the audition, rehearsal, and performance dates. The audition times will be announced at a later date. **Students that are unable to attend all rehearsals and performances should not audition.** The audition material will be posted on the District IX web page. www.district9.info

The audition requirements of the District Honor Band are as follows:

- 1.) The student must be a member of their high school band program.
- 2.) The student must furnish a \$5.00 audition fee.
- 3.) If selected the student must pay a \$20.00 clinic fee.
- 4.) The student must make arrangements for his/her transportation to and from audition and rehearsal/concerts (if selected).

The District Honor Band is an excellent opportunity for high school musicians. Students are strongly encouraged to audition and represent Mandeville High School. Please begin preparations early and ask Mr. DiBenedetto for any help you might need and he will be glad to help and listen.

All-State Honor Band

The All-State Bands will rehearse the week before Thanksgiving. The rehearsal scheduled is dependent upon for which group the student is selected. First round auditions will be held in September at Southeastern Louisiana University. For students who qualify, second round auditions will be held the second Saturday in October. See the calendar for the audition, rehearsal, and performance dates. **Students that are unable to attend all rehearsals and the performance should not audition.** Audition times will be announced on a later date. Audition materials are currently posted on the District IX web page. www.district9.info.

The audition requirements for the All-State Honor Band are as follows:

- 1.) The student must be a member of their high school band program.
- 2.) The student must pay a \$5.00 first round audition fee.
- 3.) If selected, the student must pay a \$10.00 second round audition fee.
- 4.) If selected, the student must pay a clinic fee. The fee changes every year.
- 5.) The student must make arrangements for his/her transportation to and from audition and rehearsal/concerts (if selected).

The All-State Bands are the MOST prestigious groups in the state and looks very good on a college application. Participating students are awarded many scholarships to study at various universities and are also offered scholarships to many summer camps. Almost 100% of the students selected for the All-State group study privately.

District Jazz Band

The District Jazz Band will hold auditions usually during the second semester. See the calendar for audition, rehearsal and performance dates. **Students that are unable to attend all rehearsals and performances should not audition.** The audition material will be posted on the District IX web page. www.district9.info.

The audition requirements for the District Jazz Band are as follows:

- 1.) The student must be a member of their high school band program.
- 2.) The student must furnish a \$10.00 audition fee
- 3.) The student must pay a \$20.00 clinic fee if accepted.
- 4.) The student must make arrangements for his/her transportation to and from audition and rehearsal/concerts (if selected).

The District Jazz Band is an excellent opportunity for high school musicians. Students are strongly encouraged to audition and represent Mandeville High School. Please begin preparations early and ask Mr. DiBenedetto for any help you might need and he will be glad to help and listen.

Other Honor Bands

There are several other honor bands students can participate in throughout the year. Following is a list of honor bands that are highly recommended.

Honor Band	Selection Criteria
Southeastern Invitation Honor Bands	Band Director Recommendation
U.S.M. All-South Honor Bands	Tape Audition
Arkansas/Louisiana/Texas Honor Band	Tape Audition
National Honor Band	Tape Audition
Louisiana All-Star Marching Band	Band Director Recommendation
Loyola Invitation Honor Band	Band Director Recommendation
University of New Orleans Honor Band	Band Director Recommendation

***Participation in any of these groups looks very impressive on a college resume.**

Band Trips

It is planned to schedule a full-band trip each spring. This year we will be going to Disney World during Spring Break and staying for 5-7 days. The band trip is being organized and more information will come out soon along with a payment plan. These trips will require some out-of-pocket expenses. Every effort is made to give adequate preparation time to find the monetary resources. All members of the band program in good standing will have the opportunity to attend these trips. **However, if a student has two or more conferences with Mr. DiBenedetto in regards to behavior, Mr. DiBenedetto reserves the right to deny that student the opportunity to attend the band trip. I really don't expect this to happen. This trip is a reward for the hard work students put in all year.** Only students that have been band members for the full year will be permitted to go on the band trip. Students with two or more unexcused absences from performances will not be allowed to attend. Students transferring from other schools during the school year must provide documentation to show that they were in band at their previous school.

Jazz Band

Jazz Band members will be chosen, by audition, from members of the marching and concert bands. The only exception is for piano, guitar, and bass. The instrumentation is as follows: 2 alto saxophones, 2 tenor saxophones, 1 baritone saxophone, 4 trumpets, 4 trombones, and a rhythm section (piano, guitar, bass, and drum set). Note: When selections are made for Jazz Band, students who are members of the rhythm section for marching and concert bands will take precedence over a student that is not a member, provided that playing abilities are comparable. Students must be able to schedule jazz band class during the fall semester to participate in jazz band. Rhythm section players must schedule jazz band class during the spring semester to participate in jazz band.

Dismissal from Marching Band

Marching Band is activity with a large number of students participating. Students know the following guidelines set forth in this handbook. Not exhibiting appropriate behavior and respect in ALL aspects of your involvement with this group will be placed on the discipline ladder below.

The discipline ladder is as follows and used for main offenses.

- (1) Student is given a verbal warning. **(I expect to not even get to this step!!!)**
- (2) Student is given a second verbal warning
- (3) Meeting with student to discuss problem
- (4) Meeting with parents to discuss problem
- (5) Parent will be notified and student will be dismissed from the band.

I never expect to use this ladder but we must have guidelines. I know that Mandeville High School students in our band program will conduct themselves in a mature and adult manner at all times.

It is a privilege to be a part of any Mandeville High School Music Organization.

“The Pride of Success is hard work, dedication to the job at hand, and determination that whether we win or lose, we have applied the best of ourselves to the task at hand.”

- Vincent Thomas “Vince” Lombardi (1913-70). American football coach, led Green Bay Packers to 6 conference titles

Contact Information

For now, the best way to contact me is through email: rdibenedetto@hotmail.com for any questions.

Signature Page

Student Acknowledgement

I have read and understand the policies and expectations contained within the Mandeville High School Marching Band. I agree to abide by these policies and expectations. Furthermore, I take full responsibility for my own actions and promise to put forth my best effort to ensure the success of the Mandeville High School Marching Band.

Students Name (Printed) _____

Students Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Acknowledgement

I/We have read and understand the policies and expectations contained within the Mandeville High School Marching Band Handbook. I/We agree to support the enforcement of these policies and expectations. Furthermore, I will do my best to contribute my support to the success of the Mandeville High School Marching Band.

Parents Name (Printed) _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

