

**MOUNTAIN HOME PUBLIC
SCHOOLS**

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

BAND HANDBOOK

2018-2019

STATEMENT OF

POLICIES & REGULATIONS

“We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit.”

MOUNTAIN HOME BANDS STATEMENT OF POLICY & RESPONSIBILITY

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PREFACE:

This statement of policy has been written for the Mountain Home Band Program with the hope of giving information regarding various phases and activities of the program. All band members and parents are encouraged to read this statement carefully at the beginning of each school year to avoid conflicts with the policies and rules stated herein. *If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact a band director.*

Band offers a wide variety of opportunities for students. Band is one of the few classes where excellence is not only expected, but also essential to success. In band, everyone must perform at the highest level or a performance can potentially not go well. The primary objectives of the band program are culture—to foster the continued development of music appreciation and understanding through the study and performance of music; educational—to develop interested, discriminating listeners, and provide a well-rounded musical education and prepare students for musical activities beyond high school; service—to lend color and atmosphere at certain school and community functions while promoting and enhancing the dignity, reputation, and quality of the Mountain Home Band at all performances; citizenship—to develop the ability to function as a responsible member of the group, to enhance the member’s ability to interact with others in a positive manner, and to develop the ability to function as a responsible member of the community. Band also helps members develop life-long friendships and memories through performances and travel.

BAND HISTORY / BACKGROUND:

The Mountain Home Band Program has long been recognized as one of the outstanding programs in Arkansas. The MHHS Band has consistently given award-winning performances in both concert & marching competitions throughout the state, region, and on the national stage. The band has been an integral part of community events for over sixty years and is an important part of the history of our area. It is one of the most colorful and active groups on campus.

The MHHS Band has performed in the 80th Annual Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade® in New York City, the Florida Citrus Parade®, as well as parades at Walt Disney World® and Universal Studios® in Orlando. The jazz band has been a featured performer at several of the top shows in Branson. Each year, many students qualify for the All-Region Honor Bands as well as the Arkansas All-State Honor Bands. In addition, numerous band members receive college scholarship opportunities each year.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BAND DEPARTMENT:

The band members will be provided with the proper type of rehearsal atmosphere including a clean and neat room, proper lighting, and modern and well maintained school equipment. Each day the director will be organized with a lesson plan designed to gain maximum use of rehearsal time. Furthermore, the director will see that all members conform to school, band, and Arkansas Activities Association policies. Appropriate disciplinary action will be taken when these regulations are not followed. Finally, each

student and parent will receive written information about performance dates, rehearsal dates, and other special events well in advance of the scheduled event.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE STUDENTS:

Participation in any of the organizations of the Mountain Home Band Program is a distinct privilege which carries with it certain responsibilities for band membership. A band member should always be regular in attendance and account for all absences, in advance if at all possible. Band members should constantly strive to improve on their instrument technically and musically and to set an example of pride and leadership for other band students. A band student should always be honest and above reproach in all dealings with teachers, parents, and other students. A constant attitude of cooperation and willingness to work is expected of all band students at all times. A good general rule of responsibility for a band member is: *“BE IN THE RIGHT PLACE, AT THE RIGHT TIME, WITH THE RIGHT EQUIPMENT, WITH THE RIGHT ATTITUDE, READY TO CONCENTRATE AND WORK.”*

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARENTS:

The parents of a band student can be most helpful by encouraging home practice, as well as reminding the student to have the proper equipment which is always clean and in good repair. Parents need to assist a student by making sure transportation is provided to and from rehearsals and performances and see to it that the student is always punctual. Parents can help greatly by notifying the band director of any absences and tardiness, in advance if at all possible. **Parents are encouraged to attend band performances throughout the year and become involved in the Mountain Home Band Booster Club.** The booster club meets regularly throughout the school year (see calendar of events). Parents are always needed to help work in the concession stand for football & basketball games, help with uniform fittings, chaperoning students on band trips, and other band functions.

CONDUCT:

Because of the nature of the organization, band discipline must, if necessary, be strict. Band students and their parents must be willing to accept the ideals, principles, and rules of the organization. Because band members are constantly on display, each student must always be aware of the importance of good behavior. The student should remember that he/she is representing the band, school, family, and community whenever they perform or appear publicly. Any misconduct or inappropriate behavior casts a direct reflection on our school and community and may well undo the good work of hundreds of loyal students. A good band is built on trusting one another and self-discipline.

EXCESSIVE MISCONDUCT MAY RESULT IN A STUDENT BEING PLACED ON BAND PROBATION OR BEING REMOVED FROM THE BAND PROGRAM.

All school rules and district policies are in effect and will be enforced while students are participating with the band during the school day as well as outside of the regular school day on all band trips and at all band functions, rehearsals, or performances.

Members of the band program need to respect themselves, others, and property. Remain disciplined on the field, in public, and in the stands. Maintain a positive attitude, have fun, and project pride. Continually contribute your skills, talents, ideas, and abilities to the band. Be ready to start rehearsals on time with all the necessary equipment and expect the best of yourselves and others.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Each band member makes an important contribution to the entire group at each rehearsal & performance. Therefore, attendance at **all** rehearsals and/or performances is expected for the duration of the event.

Membership in the Mountain Home Band Program automatically includes **ATTENDANCE AT ALL REHEARSALS AND PERFORMANCES.** The only excuses which will be acceptable for missing a rehearsal or performance outlined on the “Calendar of Events” will be sickness or legitimate family emergencies. Attendance is mandatory at designated Thursday night rehearsals during marching season. Decisions to make exceptions for excused absences in unusual circumstances will be left to the discretion of the band director. Students and parents will be given updated performance schedules throughout the school year. Communication in advance is important—especially when you may miss a performance (wedding/family reunion/other major family event). The earlier we know the better. Verbal notification is great, but please e-mail or write it down as well.

An unexcused absence from a scheduled rehearsal or performance may result in the student not being allowed to participate at the next band performance. An unexcused absence may also result in a student being placed on band probation or designated as an alternate. Band probation means if a student misses another event or fails to adhere to any other band regulation or policy, he or she will not be allowed to perform with the band for the remainder of the semester, with the possibility of removal from the band program. **Work is not considered an excused absence.** Please communicate your band schedule with your employer IN ADVANCE—most are reasonable and will cooperate if they know in advance that you have prior commitments. We will be glad to talk to employers to verify your participation with the band.

The Mountain Home Bands are performance based groups—it is very important that band members attend rehearsals and performances for the success of the entire band.

Parents and students are encouraged to communicate, in advance if possible, of any schedule conflicts. We will try our best to work with you in the best interest of your student. In case of emergency situations, please contact the band director as soon as possible after the event. Since grade credit is given on students’ performance proficiency at scheduled rehearsals and calendar events, unexcused absences will directly affect a student’s grade. Excessive unexcused absences (2 or more) may result in a parent-teacher conference and possible removal from the band. The band directors will work with other school sponsors, teachers, and coaches when scheduling overlaps or conflicts occur. Students will **NOT** be punished for attending other school-related events. This will be worked out in advance with the other school group sponsors. Communication between students and directors in advance is important when there are overlapping events.

Attendance is also expected during the class period each school day that band meets. If you miss rehearsal the day of a scheduled performance, you may not be allowed to perform at the evening’s event. This will be handled on a case by case basis, determined by the circumstances of the absence. This includes Thursday night band rehearsal before a Friday home game or Saturday competition.

REHEARSAL EXPECTATIONS:

In band rehearsals, we not only deal with a creative process, but with a great deal more students at one time than most other classroom teachers. Because of this, it is imperative that band students be organized and prepared for every rehearsal. When an individual is not able to play their instrument during a rehearsal, it hurts the GROUP as well as the individual. It is important that your instrument is in good working condition, and that you have the proper supplies (drill sheets/music/reeds/valve oil/sticks/mallets/etc.) for **EVERY** rehearsal. Planning in advance will help you be prepared. It is also obvious that the creative process in which we are involved cannot take place unless there is a quiet, attentive atmosphere in the rehearsal. Students who do not live up to these high rehearsal expectations of our band will be counseled, disciplined, if necessary, and may be removed from the band program completely. We expect you to participate in rehearsals. It's not only important that you know your part, but you need to know everyone else's part as well. If we all learned our part at home and only showed up for performances, we wouldn't be very successful.

GRADING / ELIGIBILITY:

Students receive academic credit for band. See the school handbooks for specific fine arts credits. Grades in band are based on students' performance proficiency at calendar rehearsals, band concert assessments, state band assessments, individual playing tests, and daily rehearsal participation. The grading scale is the same as stated in the school handbooks. Students are responsible for making up points due to an excused absence by completing the playing tests or written tests they missed. Students must meet eligibility requirements established by the Arkansas Activities Association, Arkansas School Band and Orchestra Association, and the Mountain Home School District. Ineligible students (below a 2.0) may be removed from the band or may have to participate in the Supplemental Instruction Program (SIP) and must adhere to the policies established by the school district and the Arkansas Activities Association. Failure to attend SIP or failure to adhere to the policies of SIP may result in removal from band.

ACHIEVER STATUS:

Band students that have been enrolled in band (instrumental music) for 4 years with passing grades will be a Fine Arts "Achiever" with an Instrumental Concentration. Students must enroll in Instrumental Music I, II, III, IV (9th, 10th, 11th, 12th grade) to complete this concentration. Students that complete this status will receive a cord to be worn at graduation as well as be honored at an achiever reception. A scholarship application is also available for students that become an achiever in the fine arts. There are other Fine Art's Concentration areas that students may also complete in Visual Arts, Vocal Music, and Theatre. See those instructors for further information. The scholarships are provided by the Mountain Home Education Foundation.

TRANSPORTATION:

Mountain Home Public Schools will provide bus transportation for all band events. All band students are expected to use the transportation that is provided. Students must sign up for a bus prior to a scheduled trip. Only band students, parent chaperones, and band directors will be permitted to ride the band bus.

Parents who wish to have their child return with them need to notify (preferably e-mail or written note) the band director **PRIOR** to the trip. **Students and their parents must check out/sign-out with a director before they leave an event.**

Students will **NOT** be allowed to leave with other students without proper **parent** supervision. The directors are responsible & liable for the band students while on a school sponsored trip. We take this responsibility very seriously. The safety and security of our students is top priority!!

Any changes in bus assignment must be approved by the band director before a trip takes place. There will be absolutely **NO** changing of buses once the band leaves for a trip. All school rules and bus policies are in effect on band trips away from school (see school handbooks for rules and regulations). Parents will be required to sign a permission slip before a student may travel with the band (see last page attachment to sign & return).

FUND RAISING:

The Mountain Home Public School District helps fund the band program by purchasing instruments, music, and other supplies for the band. In addition to the money needed to operate a successful band program, fund raising is a necessary task that we must undertake. This allows us to raise money to feed students on trips, provide reward opportunities, band camp scholarships, provide additional instructors and performing groups, and it allows us to take other major band trips. In the past the band has traveled to Gatlinburg, New York City, and Orlando. Students and parents are encouraged to participate in fundraising activities in order to cut down on the “out of pocket” expenses you may have to pay for extra travel if enough funds are not raised. Fund raising activities include (but are not limited to) cookie dough sales, band pancake supper, operation of concession stands, rummage sales, and other dinners or activities as deemed appropriate. All fund raising activities will be approved through the school administration. As stated previously, parents are needed to help operate the football & basketball concession stands—this is our main source of revenue. If everyone signed up to work one event, all of the spots would be filled and the work would be equally distributed. All of the money raised by students and band parents goes directly to benefit our band students. Each high school band student will be required to sign up to work at least one of the regularly scheduled football or basketball concession stands for the 2018-2019 school year.

EQUIPMENT:

Students are expected to take proper care of their own personal equipment, as well as proper care of all school equipment used. Any equipment damaged or lost due to student negligence will be repaired and/or replaced at the expense of the student and their parents. This includes instruments, drums, color guard equipment, props, electronics, or any other percussion instruments. Students are not permitted to use any instrument other than their own or the one they are assigned. Students using school-owned instruments will check the instrument out at the beginning of each semester. Students are expected to return school-owned instruments in the same condition they were issued. Students will pay a non-refundable fee of **\$75 per school year** that will be used for regular maintenance and cleaning of the marching & concert instruments. As stated above, any instrument damaged or lost due to student negligence will be repaired and/or replaced at the expense of the student and their parents. Students should report any damage to any instrument immediately to their band director. Students and parents should record their instrument serial number at home for insurance purposes if the instrument is ever lost or stolen. You need to check with your homeowner's/renter's insurance policies in regards to personally (student-parent) owned instruments.

FINES:

As stated in this handbook, students are responsible for purchasing their own band t-shirt, wind suit, and marching shoes. In addition, instrument rent is \$75 for the year and helps off-set the district expense of cleaning and maintaining the school-instrument inventory. Students are also responsible for paying all-region & solo/ensemble tryout fees. The district will pay the all-region clinic fees, all-state tryout & clinic fees, and all full band entry fees. Failure to turn in your money for any of these items, fund raising or other items ordered throughout the year will result in students being placed on the school fine list, just as they would be for textbooks. This includes turning in the marching band uniform as well as band tuxedos, bow ties, and concert dresses. Students placed on the fine list may not receive their report card, transcripts, or possibly even their diploma for not paying their fines. In addition, students may not be allowed to participate with the group (school handbook policy). Please be prompt in paying for items and turning in items in a timely manner. Your cooperation with this will be greatly appreciated.

MUSIC:

Students will be issued music (marching, concert, all-region, etc.) and folders as deemed necessary by the band director. Students will be expected to keep up with their music and have it for all rehearsals and performances. Students may be responsible for paying for extra copies of music if lost. This also includes flip folders, drill sheets, and marching chips for high school band members—a “fanny pack” will be provided during marching season for students to keep up with their stuff—these need to be returned at the end of marching season. Please keep up with everything you need for band. Students are encouraged to bring a pencil to band class each day. Please keep up with your stuff!

MARCHING BAND:

Mountain Home High School has one marching band (10th-12th) open to all students recommended by their junior high band director. A student's skill level (playing and marching) will determine the extent of a student's participation. This will initially be done through a music & marching evaluation. The evaluation will consist of both musical and marching requirements as well as a student's track record of reliability (attendance/behavior/attitude). Music for the evaluation will be distributed to students in the spring and marching requirements will also be reviewed in the spring.

For the competitive halftime show, we will march fewer people and will use several students as alternates. Every good band has alternates--that is, extra people who continue to learn or shadow a marching spot and can possibly fill in or replace other band members if need be (injury/illness/student moves/scheduling conflicts/etc.). For the competitive show, we will use the best performers (music & marching). Some students will not possess the skills necessary to march in the competitive show. Instead of eliminating these students, we continue to work with them and allow them to participate in all other band activities (pre-game, playing in the stands at games, parades, trips, etc.). For the competitive show, their contribution may be, but not limited to, helping move equipment or props, running the sound system, or other necessary tasks for the success and operation of the band. There are many important and crucial tasks that must be done.

In the Mountain Home Band, individual status is constantly re-evaluated as marching season progresses. Even though there is constant re-evaluation, there is no guarantee that a student will earn a spot. The way to avoid becoming an alternate is to know one's music, to know the marching routine, and to avoid unauthorized absences or tardies at rehearsals and performances, especially when spots are assigned during summer rehearsals. Attendance, attitude, punctuality, and discipline are also considered when assigning or evaluating alternates.

All students will be expected to follow the band's rehearsal & performance schedule throughout the fall marching season, including travel—whether they have a marching spot or not. All attendance policies are in effect for all band students. During football season, EVERYONE will be expected to participate in pep rallies, parades, playing in the stands at home football games, and in daily and Thursday night marching rehearsals.

The marching band is a **double-blocked** class for the entire fall semester and the group will meet during the school day or students won't be able to have a marching position. We learn new drill daily and the group can't be successful when members are consistently absent from rehearsals. There will be required marching rehearsals in late July/early August to prepare for the fall season. There will also be additional Thursday night rehearsals for the full band, including a weekly sectional for each specific instrument. A schedule of rehearsals & performances will be provided.

MARCHING BAND UNIFORMS:

Students will be issued a marching band uniform each year. Students are expected to take care of their uniform. If there are problems with your band uniform, please report it to the band director at once. The uniforms will be cleaned before they are issued to a student and as the director deems appropriate. Students are responsible for keeping their uniform clean. If the uniform gets dirty, the student is responsible for arranging to wash the uniform at school. Students are encouraged to be particularly careful when eating or drinking after a performance (hot chocolate & nacho cheese are major issues!!!). Every effort should be made to keep your uniform as clean as possible and to inform the uniform captain immediately after an accidental spill or stain on the uniform so it can be properly laundered. The uniforms are only in their second year and cost over \$82,000.

Students are required to wear the designated band t-shirt under their band uniform.

These 2 shirts may be purchased at the beginning of the school year (approximately \$10 per shirt--\$20 total). Students will be required to wear the uniform in the appropriate manner at all times.

Any abuse of the uniform may result in the student being dismissed from a performance and/or being placed on band probation. Each student will be required to fill out a uniform-agreement form when they are issued a band uniform. Students will be financially responsible for any lost items (hat, plume, gauntlets, jacket, pants, and white gloves).

Students are responsible for purchasing and wearing the appropriate band marching shoes during marching season (approximately \$35-40). Students need to purchase their own **BLACK** socks for marching band—these should be calf high—please, no anklet or footie socks. **Shoes are to be kept clean for all performances.** Failure to comply with any uniform policy may result in a student not being allowed to perform with the band.

The goal of our group is to look “uniform”—to be one unified group, with one purpose of each member looking & doing their personal best. Therefore, **NO** visible jewelry (male or female) will be allowed to be worn while in uniform. This includes necklaces, rings, watches, bracelets, etc. Long hair (male or female) must be placed in the hat during marching performances—a hat should be selected to allow for this. Hair nets may be worn if the hair is not the prescribed length. Small studded earrings will be acceptable. Make-up should be kept to a minimum—preferably **NONE**—it gets on the uniform & hat string. Students who dye their hair need to wear a protective cap to keep the dye from getting on the white hat. Students will be responsible for cleaning and/or financially replacing a band jacket, hat, or gauntlets that has been discolored or damaged. A uniform inspection will occur before each performance. Students not passing inspection will not be able to perform until corrections are made (this includes concert band too). Shorts, gloves, earmuffs, and rain ponchos will be issued at the discretion of the director based on performance needs and weather conditions. Students are not allowed to wear any additional outerwear such as hats, gloves, etc. while performing in uniform. Exceptions to this will be allowed at the discretion of the band director based on performance needs, weather conditions, and student safety.

Members of the color guard not wearing hats will wear their hair as designated by the band director/color guard coordinator. Color guard members will also be provided with the guidelines for cosmetics/make-up as it relates to looking professional, the show theme, and uniformity throughout the guard. Since guard members don't wear hats, their hair color/highlights should be a natural color (no blues, greens, artificial reds, pinks, purple, etc.). If you are unable to follow the hair/uniform/costume requirements of the guard, you may not be allowed to perform. The goal of the color guard, like the band, is to look professional and uniform (the same). While individuality/diversity is embraced by our band, when we are performing as the Mountain Home High School Band, our goal is look the same throughout the band as well as the color guard and to be a cohesive group in our appearance and performance.

HOME GAME PERFORMANCE EXPECTATIONS:

1. Look your best. Try your best. That's all we can ask of you.
2. Home football games will be played at Bomber Stadium. Warm-up time will generally begin 1 hour before kick-off. All home games will start at 7:00 pm. Students may be asked to warm-up earlier for special events such as homecoming or senior night. **Please be on time!!**
3. Students are to remain in full uniform unless otherwise instructed by the director. To maintain the cleanliness of the uniforms, please be careful during 3rd quarter break at the concession stand with food/drink (hot chocolate is the devil!!).
4. The band will sit in the stands together by sections. Please stay in your designated area with your section. The band will only play as a group (full band or sections such as percussion)
5. Please be careful in the stands—while enthusiasm & school spirit are encouraged, it's important that students or instruments not be injured or damaged in the stands.
6. Please have your music folder & be ready to play at any time—Bomber Man, etc.

CONCERT BAND:

Mountain Home High School will have one concert band (10th-12th). Initial placement will be based upon a sectional point ranking (playing assignments on all-region music/scales throughout the fall), playing auditions (semester exam) in December, and All-Region tryouts in January. Students are not required to go to the all-region tryouts, but points for participating in those tryouts will be included in the overall student point ranking system used for initial band/chair placement in the band. Additional chair placement auditions may be held throughout the year. Students are placed in chair order based on how they perform the audition music. The grade level of a student is a non factor unless the students play equally. In this scenario, the student in the higher grade will be placed ahead of the younger student (tie-breaker).

Students must meet minimum performance standards to ensure their opportunity for success and the success of their entire band. Students are expected to successfully display continued growth and improvement in their musical ability. All parts are important to the success of the band! Students are expected to actively participate in rehearsals. Points will be given for class participation. Members of the band will be required to participate in the ASBOA Region Concert & Sightreading Assessment in March as well as other scheduled concerts (typically late February/early May). Sophomores and juniors are also required to play in the graduation band in May.

Concert band will be double blocked second semester, however, students may elect to single-block band based upon credit needs and scheduling issues. If you choose to single-block, please consult with the band director first to discuss the issue. **All students that single-block must be in band on ODD days—grading is linked to odd days & this will allow for the band to have “full” rehearsals with ALL students on the same day (odd).**

The Mountain Home Bands have a strong tradition of outstanding quality in performance & our goal is to help individual student musicians improve and succeed. Students are encouraged to get their All-Region tryout music & scale sheets early, attend section classes (schedule will be distributed) to learn the music for their graded performance assignments, and to individually practice to improve on their instrument. Students are also encouraged to participate in Region Solo & Ensemble in the spring, although it's not required. Solos, duets, trios, & other ensembles may select their music at any time before spring break to properly prepare for the event.

CONCERT BAND ATTIRE:

High school band students will be issued long black concert dresses for ladies and black pants for the gentlemen. These will be checked out to the students and must be returned at the end of the concert season or the student will be held financially responsible to replace them. Gentlemen may choose to wear their own black pants/suit with a black belt. Buttoned dress shirts (no polos) need to be solid white or black. Black shoes and socks are also required. Just like the marching uniform—if a student is not dressed appropriately as stated above, they may be asked to not perform with the group. The goal is look uniform and professional for our performances—solid black and white helps us meet this goal.

USE OF BAND FACILITIES:

Students are welcome to use the band room for practice before and after school. Typically the band room is used as a “hang-out” before and after school and before Thursday night and Friday night band activities in the fall. Due to the many thousands of dollars worth of instruments and equipment in the band room, we do ask that only band students come into the band room during the school day, before or after school, and before and after performances. Please ask your friends to wait outside. We also ask that if you use equipment, chairs, or stands, please return them where you found them. If you make a mess, please clean it up. If you have trash, please throw it away. Take pride in yourself, the band, and our facilities and equipment by keeping things in order. Be respectful of other students' instruments and personal items.

SMARTPHONES / TABLETS / CHROMEBOOKS / DEVICE USAGE:

Technology is a great thing. We have capabilities now that some would have never dreamed possible and those capabilities will continue to expand in the future. There are many great apps available for students—tuners, metronomes, fingering charts, etc. We encourage you to utilize these to help you improve as a musician. However, the use of devices has its place and they can be a distraction, especially for a large group preparing for performance. Therefore we ask that all personal devices be put away during band rehearsals (marching or concert; inside or outside). Please read the school handbook regarding the cell phone/personal device usage policy.

SOCIAL MEDIA / INTERNET ETIQUETTE:

There are an abundance of social media, internet sites, and apps. These sites are a great way to see and hear what bands are doing around the state and country. They're a great way for people to know what we're doing. Though entertaining and informative, these places can also be littered with posts/photos which reflect poorly on individuals and organizations. It is obvious that many people neither realize nor care that their personal thoughts, when subjective or inflammatory, reflect on the entire group. The safest way to avoid criticism and scrutiny is NOT to post anything on a website you might think is questionable—THINK BEFORE YOU POST!! Don't put anything on social media you wouldn't want your grandmother to read. Don't try to fight your battles on social media.

Please read the school policy concerning internet usage, cyber bullying, etc. Also, be careful when posting videos of band performances (especially during marching season) as the music we perform is copyright protected (and we pay fees for the right to perform it) by the composers and United States copyright laws have jurisdiction over what can or can't be posted.

AUXILIARY GROUPS:

The senior high band will have the following auxiliary groups: Drum Major(s) and Guard (flag/rifle line). Selection for membership will be by competitive tryouts with qualified judges. Students must meet Arkansas Activities Association grade point requirements to be eligible to tryout. The band directors will announce specific tryout procedures and tryout dates. Members of the auxiliary lines may be required to attend extra practices in addition to regular band rehearsals. Attendance at these practices and rehearsals will be required (see attendance policy). Excessive absences and/or tardies from auxiliary practices may result in the student being removed from the line. (See auxiliary guidelines handout each spring).

WINTERGUARD:

Winter guard (WG) is an optional activity (if there's enough interest) that competes during the 2nd semester. Information about tryouts, choreography clinics, etc. will be distributed in early November. The winter guard will begin practices in late November/early December and will compete January-March at select competitions. WG is open to any student that meets the requirements listed above for auxiliary groups. While the WG is a great way to improve your flag, rifle, and dance skills, it is a separate tryout from the marching band guard. Even if you're not on the marching band guard you can tryout and participate if you qualify or if you're on the marching band guard, you do not have to be on WG. There may be additional student fees associated with WG.

JAZZ BAND / SMALL ENSEMBLES / HARMONY BRIDGE:

Students are encouraged to participate in small ensembles and jazz band. These ensembles usually start meeting after marching season has ended in mid-November. Various ensembles are open to all students—audition requirements, schedule of events, etc. will be distributed later in the year. These ensembles will perform at various school and community functions. Harmony Bridge is a joint effort between the Dallas Brass, Mountain Home Rotary Club, and the Mountain Home Bands to help “bridge the gap” between generations by performing music at local nursing homes/senior care centers. The goal is three-fold: showmanship (know how to present yourself in public, performance of American folk songs, and to interact with senior citizens.

SECTION LEADERS / BAND COUNCIL:

Student leadership within the band program is extremely important and will directly affect the degree of success we will achieve. We are extremely fortunate to have many outstanding student leaders that are invaluable to the success of our band program. The band staff selects section leaders each school year. These appointments can be difficult decisions to make. They are subjective and based on a holistic evaluation of a student from every aspect of their band experience including, but not limited to: playing ability, attendance/promptness, citizenship, academic achievement, discipline, initiative, leadership skills/potential leadership skills, ability to get along and cooperate with others. While all students have an opportunity to be considered for one of these appointed positions, it should be understood that only a limited number of positions exist to be filled and will vary from year to year. **ALL** students are valuable members of the band regardless of title. Every effort will be made to select senior band members for leadership roles. However, based on the evaluation criteria listed previously, there is no entitlement based upon grade level—decisions will be based on the criteria.

The band council is the student government of the band program. Any student may run for a position. The band council is selected based upon the vote of the band members. The band council's function will be to insure the smooth function of the band. They will serve as liaison between the band and director. They will provide input and make suggestions to the director from time to time concerning types of activities, new ideas, and situations affecting the band's daily routine. It is important to note that the final decision on these suggestions and recommendations will be made by the band directors. All school and district policies will be observed and all decisions will be made in the best interest of the individual band student and the band program.

Band council positions will include these officers as voted upon by the band at the beginning of the school year: President (Sr), Vice-President (Jr), Secretary/Historian (Soph), 1 Senior Rep, 1 Junior Rep, and 2 Sophomore Reps. In addition, the following appointed positions will also serve on the band council: 1 Music Librarian, 1 Uniform Captain, 1 Guard Member, 1 Equipment Manager, and the drum majors. Meetings will be called by the band directors & president, as needed.

BAND TRAVEL / CODE OF CONDUCT:

Our band takes many trips for contests and performances throughout the year. As members of the Mountain Home Instrumental Music Department you will be highly visible, not only as a musical organization, but as representatives of our school, community, and state. That responsibility and opportunity carries with it an obligation to project and maintain the absolute highest moral and musical integrity. Many of those who come into contact with us as we perform and travel will form their opinions of Mountain Home based upon the impressions we create, both in close proximity and from a distance. Therefore, the rules of the Mountain Home Public School District and individual campus rules and regulations apply at all times. As in any situation, good judgment must always prevail. Here are some important reminders:

- All rules and expectations are set forth to help you enjoy your trips to the fullest and to avoid the embarrassment and inconvenience which momentary lapses in judgment may bring about. It is the goal of the Mountain Home Instrumental Music Program, that upon our return home to Mountain Home, you will have acquired an even greater

sense of pride as a Mountain Home band member and as a Mountain Home Public School musical ambassador.

- Punctuality is essential in adhering to our busy trip schedule. Be early for everything and help each other stay organized. When enjoying free time and during sightseeing excursions, always stay in groups of three or more members. This is for your safety. There should not be any deviation.
- School dress code is required on all trips. In swimming pool areas, keep attire modest. When in concert attire OR full marching band uniform, remain in full uniform. It is unprofessional to have shirttails out, to wear athletic shoes/flip flops while in formal attire/marching uniform, to chew gum, etc. The loading of equipment may necessitate adjustments to these expectations. Follow the instructions of the chaperone or adult sponsor in charge.
- Mixed company in hotel rooms is prohibited.
- While staying in hotels we will share facilities with other student groups and individuals from other schools and programs. Some of these groups and individuals may be unsupervised at times and may engage in behavior that would violate this Code of Conduct.
- Do not be influenced nor persuaded to engage in any behavior that is in conflict with the spirit of this Code of Conduct.
- Members must remain reasonably quiet at all times when in hotel facilities. Curfews will be strictly observed. Any personal needs, which might require leaving your room after curfew, must be arranged in advance with a chaperone or director. Generally, most needs can be taken care of BEFORE curfew begins.
- Band members are responsible for all their own equipment and personal items (triple check for uniform parts, extra reeds, valve oil, mutes, music, etc.) However, we all must share in the logistical responsibilities of the trip. We will all participate as equipment movers, sanitation engineers, loading crews, stagehands, etc. Please perform the duties asked of you. The more helpers we have, the easier the work becomes.
- There will be times when changes to our plans become necessary. Look for solutions to problems and avoid complaining.
- Concerns should be expressed at an appropriate time and in an appropriate manner. Suggestion: Never complain to anyone who cannot solve your problem. See a director.
- Be respectful and courteous to all bus drivers, parent chaperones, band directors, band helpers, and anyone else you come in contact with while you're with the MH Band.

BAND AWARDS / LETTERING POLICY:

The band will receive group awards at various marching & concert competitions throughout the year. Individual band members will receive awards for all-region, all-state, and solo & ensemble based upon the adjudicated event. End of year band awards will be voted upon by the directors & students and will be presented at the final concerts of the school year. Students that participate in the high school band will qualify for a band letter based upon the following: Be enrolled in band, maintain an “A” grade in band, and attend all performances. Students are eligible as sophomores if they audition for the high school all-region band. All others will letter by their junior year in band by meeting all of the other stated requirements.

CONCLUSION:

We hope this document helps inform you about the policies and procedures of the Mountain Home Band Program. These policies are designed to maintain the integrity, excellence, and high standards that have been established for decades with our band program. Our goal is to provide our students with the best experience possible as they share their love and appreciation of music, improve their musical aptitude on their instrument individually and collectively, as well as developing the life skills of respect, hard work, dedication, teamwork, self-discipline, pride, and a sense of belonging to one of the premier organizations in our school.

As stated previously, if you have any questions or concerns about any contents of this policy, please contact a band director. We will be more than happy to visit with you. Our goal is to provide a positive experience to all of our band students and to uphold the tradition of excellence of the Mountain Home High School Band Program.

The 2018-2019 Band Calendar of Events is available on the next two pages. Please read, sign, and return the last page of this policy. We’re looking forward to a great year.

PLEASE READ, SIGN, AND RETURN THIS PAGE ONLY

Student's Name (please print): _____

We, the parents/guardians of a band student, have read this statement of policy of the Mountain Home Bands. We will comply with all regulations and policies as stated and will encourage our child to do the same. Please initial each statement below & sign the form.

_____ We give permission for our child to travel with the band during the 2018-2019 school year to various football games, band competitions, and region band events, via school provided transportation.

_____ We give permission for our child to be in band photographs and videos for concert programs, newspaper articles, etc. during the 2018-2019 school year.

_____ We give permission for our child to participate in band fund raising activities during the 2018-2019 school year.

Signed: _____
(Parents/Guardians signature)

Date: _____

I, a student in the Mountain Home Bands, have read this statement of policy of the band program. I do support the policy and will do everything within my power to follow these guidelines.

Signed: _____
(Band student's signature)

**PLEASE DETACH THIS SHEET AND RETURN IT TO YOUR BAND DIRECTOR
BY FRIDAY, AUGUST 31, 2018.**