

10 Reasons to Continue with Band and Guard throughout High School

- ★Membership in the largest, and one of the most successful, positive-image projecting organizations in the District.
- ★Likelihood of academic success - Music students outperform their non-music peers on standardized tests like the ACT and SAT!
- ★Positive camaraderie and support of older peers on campus.
- ★A positive social network that promotes academic prowess, self-discipline, creativity, teamwork, peer interaction, and leadership.
- ★New friends prior to the first day of school.
- ★Opportunities for skilled preparation and public performance throughout the year.
- ★Recognition in an award-winning, Nationally recognized program.
- ★College admissions officers continue to cite participation in music as an important factor in making admissions decisions. They claim that music participation demonstrates time management, creativity, expression, and open-mindedness.
- ★The College Board, in a publication about college admissions, states, "preparation and involvement in the arts have proven to be extremely valuable to college entrants whatever their intended field of study."
- ★Band provides students with an identity, a place to belong, and a place to be accepted by their peers.

Being a Member of MRHS Band is a positively life-changing experience!

Visit our website at:
www.mrhsband.net

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: Do I have to audition to participate in Band?

A: No. There is no audition required to participate in Band. However, there are auditions for placement in the upper level groups: Symphonic Band & Wind Ensemble.

Q: I'm concerned about my grades and how much time Band takes...what should I do?

A: Stay in Band! Students in Band consistently have some of the highest GPAs in the entire school, and outperform their non-music peers on their academic achievements, standardized test scores and acceptance rates into the colleges and universities of their choice.

Q: Is participation in Marching Band required?

A: YES! If you are in the Band at Mountain Ridge, you will be required to participate in Marching Band. We combine all 5 Band Courses into the Pride of the West Marching Band during the Fall.

Q: Does Marching Band require time outside of school?

A: Yes. Once school begins, Marching Band usually rehearses 2 times a week on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. The Band also performs at football games on Friday evenings and at several competitions throughout the state that are usually held on Saturdays in October and early November.

Q: I want to participate in Marching Band, but I also want to participate in a Fall sport. Can I do both?

A: Yes, but understand that juggling Marching Band and a Fall Sport requires a high level of dedication, organization and commitment. We have had students do both over the years.

Q: When is the official start of the season?

A: Generally the season starts with a Start Up Day on a Saturday in mid-May, summer sectionals called "IYIT: If You're In Town" rehearsals, and a camp a week or two prior to the start of school.

Q: Can I also play in a jazz ensemble?

A: YES! Mountain Ridge has an outstanding Jazz Ensemble. Jazz Band is open to all Band students and is currently scheduled after school so it does not take up an additional period in your schedule.

Q: What does Band cost?

A: All Band students are asked to contribute a \$500 "Fair-share" to help offset instructional expenses, show design, equipment, etc. This can be an AZ Tax Credit (100% returned in Tax Refund/Credit) No student will be denied participation if they cannot pay. There is also a separate fee for our Band Camp in Prescott and for any additional out-of-state or overnight trips.

Please contact Mr. Vogel with any additional questions.

Mountain Ridge High School Bands

Program Information



"Excellence Everywhere"

Aaron Vogel, Director of Bands

For more information

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Recent Awards and Accomplishments:

The MRHS Band is a recipient of the **Citation of Excellence Award** from the **National Band Association** and the **William E. Richardson Program of Distinction Award** from the AZ Band and Orchestra Director's Association. We are the **only Band program in the State** that has received this prestigious award five separate times.

Our Marching Band is the current **Division I ABODA State Champions** and **AzMBA State Champions in Class 5A!** We also were named Class 4A Championship at the 2022 Bands of America Regional Championship.

Our Varsity Winter Guard is the current **Gold Medalist** and **State Champion** in Winter Guard. We are 8-time State Champions and attended the **WGI World Championships** in Dayton, Ohio and were Semi-Finalists in Scholastic Open Class.



- 📍 **All incoming Freshmen Woodwinds and Brass:** **Register for Concert Band** There is **no audition** required to join. However, all students, including raising 9th graders, may audition to be considered for placement in an upper level group. Contact Mr. Vogel for audition information.
- 📍 **Percussion students** register for **Percussion**. We hold "Spring Training" throughout the Spring.
- 📍 **Guard students** register for **Color Guard**. Dance and Spin Clinics are in late April and early May. Students may also sign up to participate in our JV Guard as an 8th Grader. Contact Mr. Vogel if you are interested in participating as an 8th grader.



Band Courses

Concert Band
Symphonic Band
Wind Ensemble
Percussion Ensemble
Color Guard



The MRHS Music Department also offers the following courses open to all 9th-12th grade students:

String Orchestra
Choir
Piano



Our Saxophone Quartet, Woodwind Choir and Saxophone Orchestra have performed at the prestigious **Midwest Clinic** in Chicago. We have been invited to perform at the **AMEA Conference** 12-times, and our Wind Ensemble was a featured Band at the **Music for All National Festival** twice, in 2023 and 2019, and recently performed at the International Tuba Euphonium Conference and the National Flute Association Convention.

In addition, we consistently have numerous students selected to the **All-Region** and **All-State Bands and Orchestras**, as well as having all three concert bands, orchestra and two jazz bands consistently receiving **Superior** and **Superior with Distinction** ratings at Area and State Concert and Jazz Festivals.

We strive to offer many opportunities for our students to pursue **Chamber Music** including the **AMEA Solo and Ensemble Competition**, where we have had individual student solos and ensembles awarded with "Best in Class" honors each year.

In addition, our Marching Band has performed in the **Tournament of Roses Parade**, has twice been invited to **Hawaii** to attend the 70th and 75th Pearl Harbor Anniversary events, performed at the 2009 **Presidential Inauguration** for President Obama, and performed at the **Super Bowl!**