

Malcolm X

High School

Marching Band

Handbook

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My Philosophy

Marching band, in my opinion, is a fundamental part of a musician's growth as it teaches discipline to its highest degree. Not only is each person exposed visually, but they are also responsible for pulling their own weight to contribute to the overall success of the program. I want this program to succeed, and to do that, I must inspire students to dedicate their time and resources to fostering a successful band program. I believe festivals and competitions are important, as they build character and bring attention to our program's success throughout the season; but while winning is thrilling, it's not about trophies, it's about the journey to growing better musicians and strong-willed students who put in the work to feel success within themselves. I am excited to work with you all this school year and am looking forward to all that we'll achieve. Please read through this handbook thoroughly, as most, if not all, of your questions will be answered here.

I. Syllabus

Course Description:

Students in the marching band form the band classes for the school. Upon joining the marching band, students will be expected to participate in all football games, competitions, and end of season VBODA assessment. As marching band is considered a class, you will be graded on participation and attendance.

II. Grading System

Overall Grade Break Down:

50% Performances

30% Participation

20% Playing Tests

Grading is on a 10-point scale.

III. Student Expectations

Being a member of the Malcolm X High School Bands is a special privilege. Finding success in any performing art requires hundreds of hours of diligent work, practice, repetition, failure, reevaluation, discussion with teachers and peers, rehearsal, and performance. It is important to demonstrate unswerving persistence toward musical excellence and dedication.

Most students have spent many years developing their musical talents before attending Malcolm X High School and are aware of what is expected of them, but it doesn't hurt to have a reminder. Showing respect for people and property, kindness and cooperation, good and honest intentions, being punctual and prepared, showing a positive attitude, displaying integrity, intellectual curiosity, and trust are all important attributes expected of band students.

The following concepts form the basis for a code of values for the students in the Panther Bands:

Respect: Members are expected to demonstrate respect for faculty, parents, other students, guests, and especially themselves. All property falls under this expectation. Common courtesy and politeness, friendliness, support of peers and competitors, helpfulness, and positive behaviors indicate respect. Conflicts should be handled maturely. Profanity, obscenity, and disrespectful speech or actions are not tolerated.

Punctuality and Preparation: Students must be where they are supposed to be, when they are supposed to be there, with the right equipment, materials, and supplies, wearing the proper

attire, and with resolved schedule conflicts. For rehearsals, it is highly recommended that students arrive at least 15 minutes prior to start time. For performances, students will be asked to arrive at least 30 minutes prior to the start of the program. Students will be told in advance of arrival and start times.

Personal Responsibility and Accountability: You have two responsibilities: to yourself and your own personal growth and to any group to which you belong. Within the Pioneer Band program, performances take precedence over all other activities, and rehearsals take precedence over most activities. When a conflict arises, you are accountable for resolving it appropriately through adequate communication with and agreement between all parties concerned in a timely manner.

Integrity: Integrity can be defined as being complete as a person or having great strength of character and trustworthiness. A person with integrity demonstrates honesty, loyalty and sincerity, showing consistency among principles, values, and behaviors.

Volunteerism and Work Ethic: It is important for you to seek out opportunities to help keep the day-to-day activities of the Pioneer Band program running smoothly. Ask, "What can I do to help?" often and cheerfully. Be quick to assist with library work, collating, stuffing envelopes, distributing information, organizing, setting up chairs and stands, tearing down performance sets, helping younger students through modeling and mentoring, ushering, moving and packing equipment, and running errands.

IV. Rehearsals and Attendance

Marchers must be able to commit to 95% or more of rehearsals and performances between July and October. We realize that families have vacations and that there may be special circumstances and these must be worked out in advance with the adult leaders.

Full band rehearsals take place throughout summer and fall. See the MXHS Marching Band calendar for updated dates and times. This schedule is subject to change.

There will also be mandatory sectionals scheduled by student Section Leaders, about once per week.

Color Guard and Percussion will often have additional rehearsals specific to their needs.

During the summer, the full band will usually practice once a week, with each section doing an additional one to two days.

During the school year, the band rehearses about three days per week after school from August to October.

***highlighted dates denote Friday rehearsals**

Afternoon (2:30pm–5:00pm):

August 2025

- **Tuesday, August 19**
- **Wednesday, August 20**
- **Thursday, August 21**
- **Tuesday, August 26**
- **Wednesday, August 27**
- **Thursday, August 28**

September 2025

- **Tuesday, September 2**
- **Wednesday, September 3**
- **Thursday, September 4**
- **Tuesday, September 9**
- **Wednesday, September 10**
- **Thursday, September 11**
- **Friday, September 12**
- **Tuesday, September 16**
- **Wednesday, September 17**
- **Thursday, September 18**
- **Friday, September 19**
- **Wednesday, September 24**
- **Thursday, September 25**
- **Tuesday, September 30**

October 2025

- **Wednesday, October 1**
- **Tuesday, October 7**
- **Wednesday, October 8**
- **Thursday, October 9**
- **Friday, October 10**

- **Tuesday, October 14**
- **Wednesday, October 15**
- **Thursday, October 16**
- **Tuesday, October 21**
- **Wednesday, October 22**
- **Thursday, October 23**

Holidays (NO REHEARSAL)

- ***Labor Day: Monday, September 1 – Schools closed***
- ***Rosh Hashanah: Tuesday, September 23 – Schools closed***
- ***Yom Kippur: Thursday, October 2 – Schools closed***
- ***Diwali: Tuesday, October 21 – Schools closed***

On home football Fridays, there will usually be a rehearsal right after school that will lead into the band tailgate and football game.

Due to rehearsals and performance requirements, marchers CANNOT participate in a fall varsity sport along with marching band.

In an effort to eliminate judgment calls when dealing with absences, all absences will be treated equally. No questions will be asked and students/families are free to spend them as they feel is appropriate.

Exceptions will be:

1. Those summertime absences for travel/vacation for which a week's notice is given. Any reporting short of the above timeframe will be counted as absent (see below).
2. Anytime a student is excused from school.
3. Medical/family emergencies will be handled as they arise.
4. The following attendance policy will be followed upon the conclusion of band camp:

1st absence = no penalty

2nd absence = parent contact

3rd absence = loss of end-of-season activity

4th absence = loss of letter

5th absence = possible removal from band

Any tardiness over 10 minutes will require a note from a teacher, or it will be considered an absence. Tardies will count as half an absence. Students are expected to participate in the entire rehearsal to be considered in attendance.

V. Football Games

The band performs at most home and away games. Football games will be noted on the band calendar on the website. Kick-off starts at 7pm and the game can last for up to 2 hours. Dismissal estimated at or around 9:45pm at the latest (time subject to change).

***highlighted date denotes an Away Game**

- **August 22 (Fri): Home Game**
- **September 5 (Fri): Away Game**
- **September 19 (Fri): Away Game**
- **September 26 (Fri): Home Game**
- **October 3 (Fri): Home Game + 8th Grade Night**
- **October 17 (Fri): Homecoming Game**
- **October 24 (Fri): Home Game + Senior Night**

VI. Competitions

The band performs at four weekend competitions during the fall to showcase their music and to see other Marching Bands' shows as well.

These competitions are usually between 30 minutes to 2 hours away from MXHS and students are bused to these competitions (parents are asked to drive themselves)

Specific information about competition days will be posted on the website, sent via email, and shared on Facebook once it becomes available.

- **September 13 (Sat): Woodbridge Invitational**

- **September 20 (Sat): Colgan Classic**
- **October 4 (Sat): Hermitage Classic**
- **October 11 (Sat): JMU Parade of Champions**
- **October 25 (Sat): VBODA**

Much like Football games, competitions are a requirement for marchers (as missing marchers take away from the band being able to do its full performance at the highest level). If you know you will miss a competition, please speak with an adult leader as soon as possible.

VII. Band Camp

Camp will be July 21st- August 8th (Mon-Fri). Your attendance is essential and mandatory.

Percussion and Guard Camp:

July 21st-25th, 8am-3pm

Full Band Camp:

July 28th- August 1st 8am-6pm

August 4th-8th 5pm-9pm

TAG Day:

August 2nd 8am-1pm

Families are invited and encouraged to join us on **August 8th**, around 6pm, at camp to see the band perform what they worked on at camp.

What To Bring

Instrument: The most important item.

Accessories: Reeds, valve oil, neck straps, and any other personal care items for your specific instrument.

Binder: To store music and drill with sheet protectors to stay organized.

Sunscreen: Apply generously to protect your skin.

Hat: A floppy hat is best for maximum sun protection.

Sunglasses: Protect your eyes from the sun's glare.

Water Jug: Stay hydrated with a large water jug that you can refill.

Cooling Towel: A towel that provides a cooling effect can be very helpful in the heat.

Athletic Clothes: Wear comfortable clothing like athletic shorts and t-shirts (**NO JEANS**).

Athletic Shoes: Good tennis shoes are essential for marching and rehearsals (**NO FLAT SHOES, FLIP FLOPS, CROCS, ETC.**)

Extra Clothes: Pack a complete change of clothes in case you get soaked by rain or sweat.

Snacks: Pack non-sugary snacks to keep your energy levels up.

Deodorant & Wipes: Essential for staying fresh during long days.

First Aid Items: Bring a small first aid kit and any personal medications you may need.

Backpack: To carry all your gear.

Fanny Pack or Pouch: A small bag to keep quick-access items like pencils, lip balm, and hand sanitizer.

Pencils: You will need these for marking music

VIII. Physicals

Marching Band is a very strenuous extracurricular. It involves a lot of physical activity, often in warm weather and sometimes in heavy uniforms.

Due to this, the Marching Band uses the same physical form utilized by the Virginia High School League, and this physical form is a requirement for all band members.

Prior to the first day of summer practice, you must have a physician complete a physical. This physical must have been completed after April 15th, 2025.

If a physical is not turned in, marchers will not be allowed to take part in marching drills until they are turned in. All Physicals must be submitted to Final Forms. Instructions on this can be found here: [Final Forms Upload Instructions](#). Many clinics in the area do inexpensive walk-in sports physicals.

Malcolm X High School Marching Band Media Release Form**Student Name:** _____**Grade:** _____**Band Section/Instrument:** _____**Parent/Guardian Name (if under 18):** _____**Phone Number:** _____**Email Address:** _____**Purpose of Media Release**

The Malcolm X High School Marching Band participates in performances, competitions, and community events. Photos, videos, and audio recordings may be taken to celebrate student achievements, promote the program, and share updates with the school community.

These materials may be used in:

- School and district websites
- Social media platforms (e.g., Instagram, Facebook, YouTube) Local news outlets
- Promotional flyers, posters, and newsletters
- Educational presentations and archives

Consent Agreement

I hereby grant permission to Malcolm X High School, its representatives, and affiliated organizations to photograph, video record, and/or audio record my child (or myself, if 18 or older) during marching band activities. I understand that these materials may be used for promotional and educational purposes without compensation.

 Yes, I give permission for media use as described above. **No**, I do not give permission for media use.

I understand that this release is voluntary and may be revoked at any time by submitting a written request to the band director.

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____**Date:** _____**Band Director Name:** _____**Contact Email:** _____

Thank you for supporting the Malcolm X High School Marching Band!

Malcolm X High School Banda de Marcha Formulario de Autorización de Medios**Nombre del Estudiante:** _____**Grado:** _____**Sección/Instrumento de la Banda:** _____**Nombre del Padre/Madre/Tutor (si es menor de 18 años):** _____**Número de Teléfono:** _____**Correo Electrónico:** _____**Propósito de la Autorización de Medios**

La Banda de Marcha de Malcolm X High School participa en presentaciones, competencias y eventos comunitarios. Se pueden tomar fotografías, grabaciones de video y audio para celebrar los logros estudiantiles, promover el programa y compartir actualizaciones con la comunidad escolar.

Estos materiales pueden ser utilizados en:

- Sitios web de la escuela y del distrito
- Plataformas de redes sociales (por ejemplo, Instagram, Facebook, YouTube) Medios de comunicación locales
- Volantes, carteles y boletines promocionales
- Presentaciones educativas y archivos

Acuerdo de Consentimiento

Por la presente, autorizo a Malcolm X High School, sus representantes y organizaciones afiliadas a fotografiar, grabar en video y/o audio a mi hijo/a (o a mí mismo/a, si tengo 18 años o más) durante las actividades de la banda de marcha. Entiendo que estos materiales pueden ser utilizados con fines promocionales y educativos sin compensación económica.

Sí, doy permiso para el uso de medios como se describe arriba.

No, no doy permiso para el uso de medios.

Entiendo que esta autorización es voluntaria y puede ser revocada en cualquier momento mediante una solicitud escrita dirigida al director de la banda.

Firma del Padre/Madre/Tutor: _____**Fecha:** _____**Nombre del Director de la Banda:** _____**Correo Electrónico de Contacto:** _____

Marching Band Agreement Form

Student Name: _____

Grade: _____

Instrument/Section: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Purpose of Agreement

This agreement outlines the responsibilities and expectations for students participating in the Malcolm X High School Marching Band. By signing below, students and parents/guardians acknowledge their commitment to the program's standards of excellence, teamwork, and professionalism.

Student Responsibilities

As a member of the Malcolm X High School Marching Band, I agree to:

- Attend all scheduled rehearsals, performances, competitions, and events unless excused in advance by the band director.
- Arrive on time, prepared with my instrument, music, uniform, and necessary equipment. Maintain my instrument and uniform in good condition.
- Demonstrate respect toward directors, staff, peers, and community members.
- Follow all school rules and represent Malcolm X High School with pride.
- Participate in fundraising and outreach efforts that support the band program.
- Communicate promptly about conflicts, absences, or concerns.

Uniform & Equipment Care

I understand that I am responsible for the care and return of any school-issued uniform or equipment. I agree to:

- Keep my uniform clean and properly stored.
- Report any damage or loss immediately.
- Return all items at the end of the season or upon leaving the program.

Travel & Conduct

I agree to follow all school and band policies during travel. This includes:

- Staying with the group at all times unless given permission.
- Maintaining appropriate behavior on buses, at hotels, and at venues.
- Respecting curfews and safety instructions from staff and chaperones.

Signatures

By signing below, we acknowledge that we have read and agree to the terms of this agreement. We understand that participation in the Malcolm X High School Marching Band is a privilege that requires dedication, responsibility, and teamwork.

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

Band Director Name: _____

Contact Email: _____

Thank you for being part of the Malcolm X High School Marching Band family!

Malcolm X High School Banda de Marcha

Formulario de Acuerdo del Estudiante

Nombre del Estudiante: _____

Grado: _____

Instrumento/Sección: _____

Nombre del Padre/Madre/Tutor: _____

Número de Teléfono: _____

Correo Electrónico: _____

Propósito del Acuerdo

Este acuerdo describe las responsabilidades y expectativas para los estudiantes que participan en la Banda de Marcha de Malcolm X High School. Al firmar, los estudiantes y sus padres/tutores reconocen su compromiso con los estándares de excelencia, trabajo en equipo y profesionalismo del programa.

Responsabilidades del Estudiante

Como miembro de la Banda de Marcha de Malcolm X High School, me comprometo a:

- Asistir a todos los ensayos, presentaciones, competencias y eventos programados, a menos que sea excusado previamente por el director de la banda.
- Llegar a tiempo y preparado con mi instrumento, partituras, uniforme y equipo necesario.
- Mantener mi instrumento y uniforme en buen estado. Mostrar respeto hacia los directores, el personal, mis compañeros y la comunidad.
- Cumplir con las normas escolares y representar a Malcolm X High School con orgullo.
- Participar en actividades de recaudación de fondos y divulgación que apoyen al programa de banda.
- Comunicar de manera oportuna cualquier conflicto, ausencia o inquietud.

Cuidado del Uniforme y Equipo

Entiendo que soy responsable del cuidado y devolución de cualquier uniforme o equipo proporcionado por la escuela. Me comprometo a:

- Mantener mi uniforme limpio y almacenado adecuadamente.
- Informar de inmediato sobre cualquier daño o pérdida. Devolver todos los artículos al final de la temporada o al dejar el programa.

Viajes y Conducta

Me comprometo a seguir todas las políticas escolares y de la banda durante los viajes, incluyendo:

- Permanecer con el grupo en todo momento, a menos que se me otorgue permiso. Mantener una conducta apropiada en los autobuses, hoteles y lugares de presentación.
- Respetar los horarios establecidos y las instrucciones de seguridad del personal y acompañantes.

Firmas

Al firmar a continuación, reconocemos que hemos leído y aceptamos los términos de este acuerdo. Entendemos que la participación en la Banda de Marcha de Malcolm X High School es un privilegio que requiere dedicación, responsabilidad y trabajo en equipo.

Firma del Estudiante: _____

Fecha: _____

Firma del Padre/Madre/Tutor: _____

Fecha: _____

Nombre del Director de la Banda: _____

Correo Electrónico de Contacto: _____

¡Gracias por formar parte de la familia de la Banda de Marcha de Malcolm X High School!