

Murrieta Valley High School Crimson Cadets Band Guidebook 2008-09

This guidebook is designed to help Band and Color Guard members and their families understand the policies and procedures, associated with participation in the Crimson Cadets. The guidebook is updated each year, and is always considered a “work in progress.” Much of what is included offers clear direction as to the level of commitment necessary to uphold the high standards and strong traditions associated with the program. In addition to our own high standards of excellence, student performance expectations are derived from both the state and national standards for music education, and are consistent with school and district policy with regard to student achievement. Through the combined efforts of gifted and dedicated young musicians, a stellar instructional staff, and wonderful parent and community support, we hope to provide a learning environment of tremendous potential.

Classroom Agreements

Sometimes referred to as “rules,” these agreements are both easy to follow, and offer an effective guide to maintaining an efficient and well-structured learning environment in class and outside-of-class rehearsals. The students will:

- Agree to be in their designated rehearsal location on time, with their instrument, music folder, pencil, tuner, and any other necessary rehearsal tools or equipment as determined by the staff or director.
- Agree to have their own music folder at their seat daily – treating this like you would your band text book.
- Agree to respect the property of others. This includes instruments, equipment, and music, as well personal items. Assume that you do not have permission to use anyone else’s materials.
- Agree to not eat food or candy, chew gum, or drink anything else (other than water), in the rehearsal room.
- Agree to be courteous, displaying an acceptable dose of social responsibility and personal self-discipline, reflective of the highest standard of student behavior.

The Band Room – Home Away From Home

We have a small fairly small rehearsal room with limited storage space. It is everyone's responsibility to help keep the room clean and organized. During the day, you may store your belongings in your assigned locker, but these items need to go home at the end of the day. As the room is occupied virtually all day, the program does not accept responsibility for your personal items. If it's of tremendous value, keep it with you. Additionally, all instruments are to go home at the end of the day (with the exception of Marching Band rehearsal days that are followed by class the next day).

Rehearsals

In the fall, all Band members must be enrolled in two periods of band – concert and marching band. Marching Band is a class that meets from 5:30-8:30PM, Monday and Thursday. Color Guard members only need to enroll in Performance Corps. All members of the Crimson Cadets are also expected to participate in any additional arranged rehearsal time as directed (for instance – Wednesday afternoons for the first nine weeks of the fall semester).

Attendance at all rehearsals is extremely important as a part of the learning process. Absences (other than illness), must be cleared in writing at least 24 hours prior to the absence. Marching Band is a class, and a point system reflects attendance. These points are used in determining grades. Students who miss a rehearsal will receive the appropriate point deduction for the absence. Students who do not "clear" absences, or who have consistently poor attendance risk removal from the program. A complete rehearsal and performance schedule for Band and Color Guard students is located in the calendar section of the Crimson Cadets web site (posted June 2008).

To avoid unnecessary wait times, please arrange to have a ride home after all rehearsals and performances.

Performances and Competitions

The Crimson Cadets perform at all home Varsity Football games, and if the schedule permits, one away game. The band will enter and exit the stadium as a unit, becoming a part of the Friday night spectacle from the first moment they are seen by the public. Equal to any band competition, this is a performance, and the same high standards for performance apply here. During the game, the band will sit in bleachers under the score board, and will play frequently during the game in addition to performing as directed at halftime. As the band will be in uniform, we ask that cell phones, Mp3 players, and any other electronic devices be left in the band room. When

“nature calls,” students will be dismissed in pairs to use the restroom facilities and return quickly to the band location. As the duration of the game may vary, exact dismissal times will be approximated. A complete rehearsal and performance schedule for Band and Color Guard students is located in the calendar section of the Crimson Cadets web site (posted June 2008).

The Crimson Cadets also perform in band competitions that are typically held on Saturdays in the fall. Students and families will receive a detailed itinerary of the performance day schedule, prior to each event. This will be posted on the web site for easy access, including maps, and ticket information. A complete rehearsal and performance schedule for Band and Color Guard students is located in the calendar section of the Crimson Cadets web site (posted June 2008).

It is each member’s responsibility to have all equipment and uniform accessories, ready for every performance.

For information about band judging in Southern California, click [here](#).

Marching For Fitness

As directed by the MVUSD Board of Trustees, the following scenario for Physical Education credit for marching band will apply, effective fall 2008.

All ninth grade students will enroll in P.E. They will be enrolled in Marching Band as a Fine Art.

After the ninth grade, students may enroll in Marching for Fitness during the fall semesters of their tenth, eleventh, and if needed their twelfth grade year. This will satisfy the district graduation requirement of four semesters of P.E. Students will wear pedometers (provided), and the number of steps taken in rehearsal will be tracked in accordance with the requirements of the course.

Upperclassmen that have completed their P.E. requirement, will enroll in Marching Band as a Fine Arts in subsequent years.

Attendance

Attendance at all rehearsals and performances is critical to the success of the program. Since the performance schedule for the 08/09 season was posted in June, no absence from a performance is considered “excused” – merely verified. Missed rehearsals (class time), or missed performances (the equivalent of missing major a test), will result in certain grade consequences. Absences must be verified by a parent note, within three days. If a student becomes ill on the day of a performance, it is their responsibility to notify the

Band Director prior to the report time. As this is a class, and school attendance rules apply, students who do not “clear” absences, or who have consistently poor attendance risk removal from the program.

Grades

Band grades are based on attendance at all rehearsals and performances, proficiency of material, and attitude.

Eligibility

According to school policy, students whose academic grade point average falls below a 2.0 will not be allowed to perform. Failing grades in any class are not acceptable, and will result in the student re-taking the class at another time, limiting future elective or co-curricular opportunities. Therefore, a student who falls below the 2.0 threshold will be placed on internal academic probation for the following semester. Failure to maintain a 2.0 GPA throughout the probationary term will result in removal from the program.

Practice

Individual home practice is an integral part of any musician’s learning process. Practice is “band homework” and should be tended to just like homework in any other academic class. Full ensemble rehearsals are not practice sessions. Students are to establish practice routines that enable preparation of material outside of class. Class time is therefore devoted to ensemble issues and extended learning.

Placement Auditions

Placement auditions will typically occur in the late spring, and will determine the placement of the student for the following school year. Students will be placed in a band class reflective of their ability. Changes typically will not be made in class assignments until the next cycle of auditions, unless there is significant change in performance ability mid-year. Any change at that time, will be at the discretion of the Band Director.

Materials

Each Band member is issued music. If it is lost or misplaced, the student is responsible for replacing it. Work with your Section Leader or a Librarian to resolve this.

Members of the Color Guard are responsible for the proper care and storage of Color Guard equipment.

Each member will bring all necessary supplies to every rehearsal – pencils, drill charts, field markers, music, instruments, water bottle, and any other required equipment.

Rehearsal Etiquette

Playing your instrument to and from the rehearsal field is not allowed. We do not wish to disturb other classes or activities, and we do desire to demonstrate personal self-discipline, class and pride in the program as it is viewed by others

Whether in the rehearsal room, or on the field, direct your complete attention to the Band Director, or his designee. This means total silence when that person is talking, and a quick and willing response to instructions.

The rehearsal ends when the Band Director ends it, not when a bell sounds or parents arrive. Each member is responsible for properly securing equipment, music, and instrument before leaving campus.

Travel Etiquette

The members of the Crimson Cadets will be transported by district provided transportation to nearly all events. Students will sign up for bus seating at the start of the fall semester. Students are expected to ride the same bus, both to and from the event. While traveling by bus, the students will:

Follow exactly, the rules set forth by the bus driver.

Be extra polite to adult chaperones.

Pay attention and remain quite during announcements and roll call.

Remain on the bus until dismissed by the Band Director.

Stay seated at all times when the bus is in motion.

Refrain from yelling, chanting, or drumming.

Clean up the bus at the end of the trip

Chow Time

The boosters will be feeding the students prior to and during almost every event. We expect all students to avail themselves of these meals and

snacks to insure good health and high energy during band activities. Students will not be allowed to leave campus once they arrive on performance day. Each student will be asked to contribute a small food allowance to help defray costs.

Uniforms

All students will be fitted in a uniform appropriate to the unit in which they perform. They will wear the same uniform at every performance. The band uniform will remain at school, and the uniforms will be laundered as a set, as needed. The Color Guard uniform will be maintained by the individual participant. If the uniform fit needs to be adjusted during the course of the season, please identify the problem to a student Quartermaster.

The band uniform will be checked out to each student before every performance and returned that evening. It is mandatory that the uniform be worn properly when in public. When directed, the hat must be worn on the head with the brim directly above the eyebrows. All buttons and zippers should be properly fastened at all times. Black uniform shoes along with black socks and gloves complete the remaining uniform requirements. Students will be asked to wear their black "tour shirts" under the uniform. Replacing lost items (shoes, gloves, etc.) is the responsibility of the individual member.

Uniform Care

Make sure all uniform parts are placed into the uniform garment bag when they are not being worn. Do not store band shoes in the garment bag. Return the uniform to the proper storage location as directed after every performance.

Performance shoes are to be cleaned and polished for every performance. Place polished shoes into individual plastic bags, and place inside a paper bag with the student's name on it. Parent chaperones will be instructed to assist with touch up polishing only – not do the work for you.

Following a performance, the uniform is to be hung properly on a hanger, paying special attention to the creases in the pants. Place the uniform in the garment bag. DO NOT zip the garment bag immediately after a performance. Allow the uniform time to dry and breathe. Additionally, the uniform hat (shako) is to be stored always in its proper storage container.

Grooming

Make-up, jewelry, facial hair and unnatural hair color – to comply with accepted standards of uniformity, the aforementioned are not permitted for

competitive performances. Hair must not touch the uniform collar when the hat and coat are worn. All members will report to performances with their hair ready to be put up into the hat. No hairpins can show. Parent chaperones will be instructed to not address hair issues beyond minor adjustments prior to a performance. If hair becomes a problem, it must be cut, or the student will be excluded from the performance.

Private Lessons

Students are strongly encouraged to avail themselves of private lessons. Unlike full rehearsals and class time, private teachers are able to devote entire lessons to individualized instruction. When a student studies privately, they can quickly see the benefits in performance success and accelerated advancement through the program.

Band Letters

Students must qualify to receive a varsity band letter. Applications to be considered for a band letter will be processed in the fall, prior to the last competitive event of the season.

Qualifications

Candidates must complete one year in the program, and be concurrently enrolled in marching band for a second season.

Candidates must be receiving an 'A' in band.

Candidates must demonstrate excellent attendance at rehearsals and performances.

Candidates must consistently demonstrate exemplary behavior, and display a positive attitude toward the program.

School Owned Instruments

Murrieta Valley High School owns a limited number of musical instruments. Students who check out a school instrument acknowledge responsibility for its care, safety and repairs due to their negligence. In compliance with school district policy, there will be a one-time maintenance fee in the amount of \$75.00 assessed to each student borrowing a school instrument.

New Instruments

There is nothing worse than playing on a bad instrument. Students who

begin their playing experience in elementary school with “starter” instruments will have outgrown them by high school. Regardless of talent and ability, a bad instrument will definitely inhibit growth, advancement in the program, and be the source of endless frustration. When it comes time to address the purchase of an instrument upgrade, please consult with either a private teacher or the band director. They can guide you to the best and most appropriate brands and vendors. Remember that like gold, a good quality instrument sustains its value over time.

Tuners, Metronomes and Mouthpieces

Just like the spare tire under your car, instruments when purchased should come equipped with all of the tools necessary for better performance. Unfortunately, most instrument vendors haven't quite picked up on this, so we ask that every band student acquire a digital tuner and metronome to complete their musical toolbox. Students will be asked to present them and use them in class and at performances.

Booster Things

We couldn't do it without-cha!! To supplement the financial support provided by the school and district, the Band Boosters annually agree to raise a significant amount of money. A budget is forwarded by the Band Director and approved by the boosters. Budget items include; staffing, transportation, uniform cleaning and maintenance, instrument purchase and repair, show design, and music.

At the start of each new season, the MVHS Band Boosters will conduct a mandatory meeting for all parents, to discuss budget, program logistics, and fundraising activities. It is the responsibility of every Band and Color Guard family to avail themselves of this information, and to understand their shared responsibility to the program. For more information specific to the booster organization, click [here](#).

Fundraising

Students will have the opportunity to participate in fundraising activities provided by the boosters.

The Public Image

As a member of the Crimson Cadets Guard you are in essence ambassadors of the school and our community, therefore your individual behavior reflects upon all of us. Consistent with school policy, there will be no smoking, drinking of alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, or fighting by any member while we are convened as an organized group. Having said this,

behaviors that are inconsistent with the expectations of the program demonstrated outside our environment, may also have some effect on your participation in the program.

For the comfort of others, and to adhere to the appropriate public image of the program, please refrain from public displays of affection (with the exception of hand holding) during band activities.

CONCLUSION

The Band and Color Guard is composed of dedicated and accomplished students striving always for the highest standard of musical and performance excellence. Our goals are met through teamwork, camaraderie, and a selfless commitment to each other.

The ability of a group to perform at a high level represents a culmination of each individual member's desire to achieve perfection. Desiring to be perfect is only half the journey. Only through demonstrative pride, constant effort and enthusiasm, can progress toward perfection be made. When every member contributes their best effort, then and only then can the group perform to its potential.

For the Band Constitution, including specific job descriptions for student leaders, click [here](#).

(Please print, sign, and return this page to Mr. Lorenzen)

Student Information:

I, (Student Name) _____,
have received a Murrieta Valley High School Band & Color Guard 08-09
Guidebook. I have read it and understand my responsibilities as a member
of the Crimson Cadets

Date _____ Signature _____

Parent Information:

My son/daughter has received the Murrieta Valley High School Band & Color
Guard 08-09 Guidebook. We have read and discussed it together and
understand our responsibilities to this program.

Date _____ Signature _____