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MS1 Band Handbook

The mission of the Marching Sound of One is that we will encourage each member to strive for high standards of excellence. Each member will develop a sense of responsibility for attendance, preparation and each other. Each member will expand his/her awareness in rehearsal and performance to enhance the overall ensemble. We aspire to cultivate a true family within our program to facilitate lasting relationships, memories, and a passion for the arts.

Welcome!

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to the 2023-2024 season of the Marching Sound of One. We are looking forward to an exciting year that is transitioning the band into a new era and we are glad you are with us for the journey! This handbook outlines schedules, policies, and responsibilities of the MS1 Band members. Please read it carefully and completely, because all of it will apply to every member in the program. Please keep it in a place where you can refer to it easily.

Mr. Amos Walker

Director of BandsA person standing on a stool

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This is Mr. Walker’s 9th season leading the Marching Sound of One. Mr. Walker is known to be a comedian, loves his wife and kids, and will do almost anything for a bag of sour patch kids. He is an alumni of Benedict College and has a passion for cultivating the best band in the land.

Staff Directory

Ms. Jordan Mr. Ryan BenA person wearing a blue shirt and sunglasses

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Program Coordinator

Ms. Jordan works as a behavior specialist for the school district. She has a love for the beach, Disney, & her students. This is her 5th season working with MS1.

Colorguard Director

Ben has over 8 years of experience in colorguard. This is their 3rd year as colorguard director here at MS1.

Percussion Director

Mr. Ryan is passionate for his music and the growth of his students. When he’s not working, Ryan is spending time with his family or playing sports.

A group of people playing drums

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Colorguard Tech

Crystal has been doing color guard for over 8 years and is a recent UNF grad! SWOOP!

Battery Caption Head

Ken is from West Palm Beach, FL and is studying Transportation & Logistics Managment at UNF. Ken also performed with Atlas percussion.

Parent Volunteering Information

Behind every great band, are great parents and guardians! One of the most important needs of the band is your support. Please volunteer and support us by attending as many events as you can. We need ALL parents and guardians to volunteer their time, talents, and support in order to have a successful program. Throughout the year, there are plenty of opportunities to volunteer in a large or small role, occasional role, or a regularly scheduled role. In almost all cases of volunteering, prior experience is not needed. The Band Booster Executive Board are the leaders of the Band Booster Association. The association is an organization consisting of the parents and guardians of the student members. The main objective of this group is to provide additional funding and support for the needs of the Yulee High School Marching Band Program beyond what is supplied by the Nassau County School District. These items consist of uniforms needs, props, instruments, equipment, staff, music, etc. Please make every effort to become involved in this vital group and support the band program. No great band can accomplish their goals without a strong parent organization. A schedule of meetings will be published on the Google Calendar. Meetings will typically begin at 6:30pm in the HOPE room. (The room directly across from the band room).

* Band Boosters Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/yhsband/>

#### Volunteer Form: Fill out the online application on any computer. Be sure to use your full legal name and birthdate as it appears on your driver’s license or other government-issued ID.

#### Be sure to select the school(s) where you most frequently volunteer.  Also, select the functions you would like to see when you sign in at the kiosk.

#### Once approved, you will receive a response via the email address you provided in your application.

#### The first time you volunteer, have your government-issued ID scanned by the school.  Your ID must match the name and birthdate you provided on your volunteer application.

#### All volunteer approvals will expire on June 30 each year, requiring volunteers to renew. Your ID will not need to be scanned again unless your name has legally changed,

#### Link to the Volunteer Application: [Nassau Volunteer Application](https://apps.raptortech.com/Apply/MTU3Njplbi1VUw==)

#### Band Booster Executive Board:

#### Julie Crosby, Jenn Brooks, Amanda Crider, Evette Fears, Jason Barker, Melody Austin, and Scott English

Grading Policy

Band is a co-curricular activity, which means that it is an academic subject with an

extra-curricular component. The Florida Department of Education specifies: “This course can

require students to participate in extra rehearsals and performances beyond the school day.” As such,

a student’s grade is directly linked to attendance at these functions. Parents and students must

realize that when they join a performing group, they are making a commitment to all of the other

members to be there and do their part.

Grades are determined as follows:

* **40% Participation/Attendance (9 weeks)** Students are expected to be in the designated areas

by the specified time for the entirety of the event. Students must have all appropriate materials,

attire, and equipment.

* **50% Performances/Playing Tests (9 weeks)** Students are expected to

play/perform assigned material in class and at school events, appropriate class and scheduled event

participation, having appropriate rehearsal and performance materials, and returning any school

owned items at designated times and in appropriate condition.

* **10% Materials (9 weeks)** Students are expected to be in every class meeting with appropriate

materials including equipment, instrument, music, pencil, reeds, oils, tuner, etc.

Attendance Grading Policy

* **Tardies:** Students are expected to be in the designated areas by the time specified. A student’s grade in this area can be reduced 1-10% points per occurrence, depending upon the degree to which the student was tardy. This includes after school rehearsals, games, performances, etc.
* **Unexcused Absences:** an unexcused absence from a performance may result in a failing grade for the 9 weeks. An unexcused absence from a rehearsal can result in the lowering of the 9 weeks grade by 50%. **An unexcused absence may also have an effect on a student’s performance status or participation in the program.**

Notice of absence must be given verbally to the Director(s) and in writing (via Remind). A few

examples of unexcused absences include, but are not limited to: Jobs, No Ride, Community Events

(Concerts, Fair, etc), Birthdays, etc. Please note that providing “Family Emergency” without giving

some detail (from parents) will result in an unexcused absence. We do understand that there are some events that are planned in advance. There can be some excused absences per the discretion of the staff.

* **Excused Absences:** Director approval is required for excused absences. Advanced notice is

expected from the parents/guardian via Remind as well as appropriate documentation

(Doctors Note, etc). Appropriate extenuating circumstances will be excused if contact is not made

before the rehearsal or performance. A doctor’s note or more detailed information pertaining to the

absence will be required to validate the reason for the absence. Without this additional

information, staff may not excuse the absence. Notice of absence must be given verbally to the Director(s) and in writing (via Remind). A few examples of excused absences include: Death in the Family,

Weddings, Family Reunions

* **Makeup Time**: *Regardless of an absence, excused or unexcused, a student may be required to make up their time for the absence. This is at the director’s and staff discretion. This could include, but is not limited to; staying after school, having a 1:1 sectional with leadership, or submitting homework videos.*
* **DISMISSAL/QUITTING:** Those who do not follow the rules and policies of the band are subject to dismissal. It is the Directors’ decision as to which class or group a student is enrolled in and what part they play. A student who quits during the grading period will remain scheduled in the class, and will fail the semester if they cannot be moved. They will be removed from the class at the first opportunity, and only in very rare instances will they be allowed to rejoin the program. The Director will assign a failing grade for the term to any student whose behavior is inappropriate, quits, or who is not contributing to the overall effort of the program – the Directors decide who is allowed to stay. ***Students who are removed from the program, by a Director or Parent, will not receive a refund on Fees paid. Students may be dismissed and/or not allowed to register for band for inappropriate conduct, missing a performance, excessive (3+) absences (excused or unexcused) regardless of the letter grade they are earning.***

**Attendance/ Alternates/ Suspension**

During the school year, the MS1 Band will rehearse Tuesdays & Thursdays from 4pm-7pm and some Fridays/Saturdays during football season. These rehearsals involve ALL band members – Winds, Percussion, and Color Guard.

Please note the following policies:

● REHEARSALS: All rehearsals and performances are mandatory and are part of each student’s grade. The band will rehearse on days with rain or bad weather unless otherwise dictated by the Directors, Principal, or District.

* Announcements, changes, and cancellations will be announced via Remind!

Please note that the ending time for rehearsals will be when we finish rehearsing, not when students will be ready to walk out of the building. We work hard to ensure that students pack up quickly and efficiently but they must take care of all responsibilities before leaving each day - it is best to plan to arrive shortly after the ending time to avoid any extended wait times (usually students are walking out of the band room 5-15 minutes after the ending time for rehearsals). Students should not regularly be later than this - if they are, please reach out to the director so that we can find a solution.

* **ABSENCE PROTOCOL**: If you are absent or check out due to illness, please reach out to band staff via Remind or through the Band app. This helps us prepare for your absence. Please do not be alarmed if we reach out for why you are missing at practice.

● **ATTENDANCE:** Absences are excused or unexcused. The only way to have an absence excused is to notify staff via Remind in advance, present appropriate documentation (ex. Doctors note, school club/organization schedule, pass from supervising teacher of the school event, etc.) and provide prior verbal notice to the Directors.

* **MISSING REHEARSAL/PERFORMANCE PROTOCOL**: Absences may be excused for (a) personal illness (b) death in the family or (c) an emergency (enough details must be provided in order for Directors to determine if it is excused - simply stating ‘family emergency’ will not be enough). Special Permission of the Directors for specific planned absences must be obtained two weeks in advance in writing by the parent or guardian for a rehearsal. Special Permission of Directors for specific planned absences for a performance must be obtained weeks in advance, and may place your student on alternate status. All other absences are unexcused – yes, even birthdays. \*\*Students who miss the final rehearsal prior to a performance, or 50% of the rehearsals that week can be suspended from that performance. Suspended students must still attend the event.
* **PUNCTUALITY:** Leaving early/being tardy will also result in a grade deduction and after 3 in any combination, it will be the equivalent to 1 unexcused absence
* **EXCESSIVE ABSENCES**: An unexcused absence from rehearsal is a zero in the Participation/Attendance grade, and you will be placed on alternate status, if possible. After three absences, you can be removed from the program. An unexcused absence from any performance will result in a failing grade for that event, and you will be placed on alternate status, if possible. An unexcused absence from a Competition or MPA will result in an automatic 0 for that performance, and possible removal from the program.
* **STUDENTS UNABLE TO PERFORM:** Alternates, students with injuries (knee, ankle, wrist, etc), and those prohibited from performing (suspension, part change, or other) must still attend all events in uniform. They are still a member of the organization, and will usually be needed in other capacities - equipment setup, etc when physically capable.
* **MISSING REHEARSALS “AS PUNISHMENT**”: When you join the band, you are making a commitment to the entire group. Parents, please do not pull your child out of practice, performances or the program to discipline them for problems you are experiencing at home – this will not be an excused absence. It is unfair to all of those depending on that student and can result in suspension/removal from the program!
* **SUMMER CAMPS:** All Summer Camps are mandatory. Students missing camp days, including leaving early/showing up late without special permission from the Directors can result in alternate status, not performing in the entire show, or not being eligible to participate in the program. Examples of unexcused absences from camp (trips within several months of notice, work, other camps, DCI Open Class, family in town, etc)
* **STUDENT SUSPENSION**: Students can be suspended from performing for a number of reasons (inability to perform the required material to a satisfactory level, attendance, punctuality, inappropriate behavior, attitude, etc). Students who are suspended for any part of a performance must still dress out and attend the event. Suspensions can include: Stands, Field, Concert or any other public performance
* **INJURIES:** It is typical that some students may encounter injuries (knees, ankles, etc) due to the intensity of our activity. Students will be responsible for bringing and wearing any protective equipment such as braces, compression socks, etc so that they can fully participate. If an injury prohibits a student from performing, they must still attend the rehearsal to be present for any information given. Doctor notes with any restrictions etc. must be provided for students with injuries and limitations.

**Alternate Policy:**

* **ALTERNATES:** Each year we lose members during the fall due to moving, quitting, injuries, and academic ineligibility. We try to design the show for fewer people than we have on the roll to anticipate this. This means that two members can share one marching spot. The student who marches and/or plays the show the best will get to perform. We will typically have students perform every other game in the show and then select the best performer for the competitions). Every student will perform in at least one competition/Saturday event during the season. Alternates are usually the newer first/second year members, members who struggle with the musical/visual demand or members who miss days during band camp. As spots become available, alternates will move into them at the discretion of the Directors. A member may be placed on alternate status for the following reasons: ▪ Missing any Camp Days ▪ Unexcused or excessive (3+) excused absences or tardies (class or rehearsal). ▪ Inability to perform the show/music (not passing off at sectionals or class) ▪ Illness or injury that prevents performance. ▪ Missing a key rehearsal causing incomplete knowledge of the show. ▪ Missing the last rehearsal before a performance, regardless of the reason. ▪ Poor attitude
  + It is inevitable that we lose members due to ineligibility, injury, illness, etc. Marching a “hole” is detrimental to the band’s ability to perform, and for this reason, we have alternates. They fill in when an opening develops if they can learn the music and the spots. Students who are not performing on the field for a game will still perform in the stands during all games and will help move equipment, props, and other tasks during the show performance. They are still integral parts of the band and will constantly be learning and growing.

Conduct, Uniforms, & Performance Procedures

Yulee High School’s Code of Conduct is always enforced during MS1’s performances, practices, and events.

* **Food & Drink** – Students are not allowed to have food or drink (other than water) in the band room or the stands unless allowed by the staff. Students are never allowed to chew gum while in uniform.
* **Clothing** – Students are to wear designated clothes and/or uniform parts as specified by the staff. (Ex. Band shirt, black socks, band shoes, bibbers). Students not wearing the correct attire may not be able to participate in that day's event. Attire will be announced via Remind prior to all events.
* **Call Time** - **Call time is not arrival time, it is a start time.** Call time is the time for each event in which students have already arrived, in the appropriate attire/uniform, with all performance materials, seated/staged where specified by the staff.
* **Rehearsal Attire/Materials**– Students are expected to wear appropriate clothing at all MS1 rehearsals. Athletic shoes (tennis shoes, running shoes, etc), athletic pants or shorts, and comfortable shirts are required at all rehearsals. Jeans, boots, flat soled shoes, etc are not permitted. Students must have a large water jug (not a water bottle) for every rehearsal! Students must also have all the items needed to perform their part at every rehearsal and event.
* **Instrument Cleaning** – Students are expected to clean and polish their instruments before arriving at a performance event (football game, competition, etc).
* **Instrument/Equipment Storage** – Instruments/Equipment is to be stored in proper condition in the proper designated area. Equipment and instruments should only be touched by the owner/user of the equipment or instrument.
* **Cell Phones** – School rules regarding cell phones will be enforced. Students are not allowed to use cell phones during class, games, or any other band function including rehearsals. Cell phones must be kept out of sight at all times when in class or a performance situation. If necessary, the cell phone will be taken and held by a chaperone or staff.
* **Accountability** – Students are accountable for their personal and school property at all times. This includes, but is not limited to, the student’s uniform, personal/school-owned instrument, instrument case, music, luggage, clothing, money, bus seat/area, hotel room & supplies, etc
* **Professionalism** – Students will always be courteous, kind, and respectful of other students, staff, adult chaperones/volunteers, bus drivers, parents, fans, and other bands.
* **Social Media** – Students will refrain from engaging in confrontational, degrading, argumentative, or questionable activity available for display through social media or any other public presentation.

Uniform Policy

The uniform represents the entire band and school; thus, while in uniform there are no individuals. We want to represent professionalism & demonstrate appropriate behavior always.

* Black socks (crew socks - mid-calf or higher) and shiny black Dinkles are required - Guard must wear specified guard/dance shoes.

● No PDA (Public Display of Affection) – including but not limited to: hugging, kissing, hand holding, etc.

* No running in uniform unless told to do so or as required in the show performance.

● No lewd behavior: Profanity, inappropriate gestures, snide remarks, disrespect towards authority figures, parents, or other bands

* Stay in uniform until in the band room, on the bus, or otherwise instructed.