



Marriotts Ridge High School
Music Handbook
2016-2017



Excellence in Performance and People



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All colored Forms in this packet are to be turned back into the black box next to the Music Office.



Welcome!

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to the Marriotts Ridge High School music program! We welcome you with great excitement and anticipation to one of the finest music programs in Howard County. Please take some time to CAREFULLY review this handbook. If you have questions, please contact your son/daughter's director.

Many performing opportunities exist for students at almost any ability level. We will find a place for everyone who has the desire to play or sing in the music program at Marriotts Ridge High School. Getting into the school spirit will be crucial in building your program for now and the future. We encourage you and your friends who play and sing to be a part of the fun and history that will be made this year, and all the years to come.

Musically yours,

Mr. Ellis, Band Director
james_ellis@hcpss.org

Mr. AuCoin, Choral Director
scott_aucoin@hcpss.org

Mrs. Lather, Orchestra Director
rosemary_lather@hcpss.org

Marriotts Ridge Music Mission Statement

- To provide the highest quality learning experiences through rehearsal and performance
- To foster leadership and maturity skills for a lifetime
- To continue to grow as a community that strives for professionalism and excellence in everything we do.



About MRHS Music

Marriotts Ridge High School Music is comprised of all of the students and families in the Choral, Band, and Orchestra ensembles. We believe that every person in the program is valuable and has much to offer. Here at Marriotts Ridge, we strive to provide you with the highest quality program available. In order to fulfill your role as a vital member of the music community, please keep the following information in mind.

Forms: Please abide by all of the deadlines set forth in the Music Calendar regarding due dates for fees and paperwork. **You will find the music calendar on this website (mrhsmusic.net); click on “2016-2017 Music Calendar” in the left menu bar. You will also find all forms on this website –click on “Forms” in the left menu bar.** Many volunteer hours go into accounting and data management. Please respect our many volunteers by turning in forms and payments on time.

Fees and Payments: Checks are the preferred method of payment. Unless otherwise noted, please make checks payable to *Marriotts Ridge High School Music Foundation, Inc.* Please make certain that the memo section of the check tells us for whom and for what you are making payment. You may combine payments on one check as long as the memo section of the check clearly states what the monies are for. Please place all payments in an envelope with student name and the purpose of the payment. Payments should be placed in the black drop box just outside the door to the Music Department office.

Fundraising: All families will have the opportunity to fundraise to offset costs, and to help us improve our equipment and facilities. We encourage all families to participate in our fundraisers. Each student in the program will have an individual Student Account where his or her payments and fundraising efforts will be recorded. Statements will be issued periodically.

Commitment: All of the performing groups have many rehearsal and performance commitments outside of the school day. Everyone is expected to know his/her performance and rehearsal schedule. Please make every effort to be ON TIME for these events. Lateness creates unneeded anxiety for everyone. Please make every effort to communicate when emergency situations arise. Chronic lateness and absence from rehearsals and performances will result in lowering of a grade and could lead to dismissal from the music program.

Calendar: Please review carefully the calendar of events and resolve conflicts well ahead of time. We will make every effort to update the calendar on a regular basis. The music department calendar is available on this web site—the link is on the home page.



Department Expectations For Music Students

- Students will enter the music suite and classrooms in an orderly and professional manner. Students are expected to be in their rehearsal room by the sounding of the late bell.
- Students will retrieve their necessary equipment, find their seats, and begin appropriate warm-up activities.
- It is the student's responsibility to be prepared with all necessary materials. These materials may include instruments and all necessary accessories, music, pencils and a productive positive attitude.
- Students will treat themselves and each other with the utmost care and respect.
- Students will treat Marriotts Ridge High School's property and their own property with the utmost care and respect.
- Students are expected to meet all of their obligations both financial and otherwise to each ensemble in which they perform.
- There is to be no eating, drinking, gum chewing or personal grooming during class time. All electronic devices should be silenced and out of sight.
- Students are asked to leave the rehearsal rooms clean and organized. All instruments and materials are to be stored in their appropriate areas.
- Students will uphold and follow all school wide policies and expectations.



Spring Music Trip

Each year the Marriotts Ridge Music Department takes an annual Spring Trip. We highly encourage our students to take advantage of this opportunity. This trip allows our students to participate in high-level competition with students from all across the country and advance the reputation of our school, music department and students.

Our students are able to bond and grow as a music community through the experience. We have found that these bonds last far beyond high school. The trip is a very well organized event with our students' safety of paramount importance.

- The Spring Trip is usually the second or third weekend in April. Please check the music calendar for the tentative date.
- The cost of the trip varies from year to year, but usually it is between \$600 and \$700 per student. The costs depend greatly on our destination and fuel costs at the time of the trip.
- Students will have many fundraising opportunities to help defray the cost of their trip. Please do not let the cost discourage you. We believe the experience is well worth it.
- Families have the option to pay for the trip in one lump sum or follow the payment schedule indicated on the Music Calendar.
- Additionally, the Music Foundation will offer an opportunity for Financial Aid. Specific requirements must be met and all decisions are final. More information will be available in the fall.
- Families will receive a letter of intent in early October, which should be returned with a **non-refundable** \$200 deposit. This letter will include a very basic itinerary and schedule.
- In order for our groups to sound their best and continue the tradition of excellence that Marriotts Ridge Music is known for, we need ALL of our performers to participate. EVERYONE is a vital part of our success. If a condition/event arises preventing a student from participating, we need to know immediately. It could mean that the entire group may not be able to participate. Please don't assume you are not important. EVERYONE is important to our success on the trips.



Marriotts Ridge Music Foundation

The Marriotts Ridge Music Foundation is a non-profit corporation that was created to support the bands, choral groups, and orchestras at Marriotts Ridge High School. As a student or a parent of a student in of one of the performance ensembles, your family is automatically a valued member of the Music Foundation.

PLEASE CHOOSE TO BE INVOLVED!!

Please review the list of volunteer opportunities and return the *Parent Volunteer Form* to indicate your volunteer interest(s) and availability. You will find the *Parent Volunteer Form* online at mrhsmusic.net, click on “Forms” in the menu bar on the left.

If you need more information, feel free to contact any board member or committee chair listed in the 2016-17 Board and Committee Directory also found on the website.

Open Board meetings are held generally on the first Thursday of each month at 7pm in the Student Services Office or in the Music Suite. All Mustang music parents and students are welcome and encouraged to attend!

The Music Foundation exists to support and further develop that excellence in the performing arts at Marriotts Ridge, financially and administratively. As the music teachers and students plan many exciting events and endeavors this year, it's the responsibility, challenge and privilege of all our music families to help them reach their goals. PLEASE CHOOSE TO BE INVOLVED in some way to support your child's Mustang music experience. Every contribution is valuable—no contribution is too small and there is great camaraderie and fun working together.

Fundraising: Several opportunities are offered throughout the year for students to raise money toward their spring trip costs. As we continue to build the music program here and plan for future growth, general funding is needed as well. Yankee Candle, Spirit Wear, Fruit sales, Mustang Flea Market, Annual Mattress Sale, and ongoing Cash Cards sales are being planned for this upcoming year. ***If you have past experience with fundraising or are willing to help with a particular sale promotion, join one of these energetic and essential groups!***

Patron/Corporate Sponsors Program: Record keeping is an important part of this job. Although most Family Patron donations are received in the fall, responsibility to record and acknowledge contributions is ongoing throughout the school year. On the Business Sponsor side, it is a wonderful way to get involved with the community. Patron coordinators contact past patrons and identify potential new contributors and encourage them to support the MRHS Music Foundation. ***If you want to help but prefer to work independently or if you have lots of local business contacts and like to network, our Patron Program welcomes your involvement.***

Marching Band Support: Many volunteers are needed to help with band camp support, t-shirt distribution, uniform fitting and distribution/collection, inventory, transportation, pit crew, crowd support at games, parades and competitions, etc. ***Mr. Ellis appreciates parental involvement and he'll be sure to find a job for you!***



Spirit Wear: Are you into fashion or have some experience with T-shirt companies? Help develop and promote a line of unique and fun spirit wear for our outstanding musicians and supporters. This fun committee will oversee all aspects of MRHS Music Foundation spirit wear sales. Ordering, collecting funds and distribution are all important parts of this job. ***Help us offer fun and stylish designs to set our department and performers apart!***

Concert Attire: The bulk of the work in this area happens in the fall--measuring incoming freshmen and new students for their concert tuxedos and dresses—to order and distribute concert attire in time for our first December performances. The formalwear supplier is already set up, and several veteran parents are willing to help in the process. So, especially if you are available during the school day to measure the students, please consider working with Concert Attire.

Concert Organizers: These folks work hand in hand with the directors to prepare and assist at our amazing performing arts concerts. Obviously the work load during concert season is rather heavy with coordinating ticket sales, laying out the program, selling tickets, handling decorations, and organizing gift basket raffles. Assistance is needed in creating promotional flyers for distribution at MVMS and the feeder elementary schools. The bulk of work begins in November and runs through December as well as late April.

Awards/Banquet: What a wonderful way to help honor the students for all their success throughout the year! The majority of work takes place during the March/April months, prior to the actual Music and Performing Arts Awards Night in May. Help is needed in organizing the potluck event and award ceremony; assistance is given to the directors in preparing the many certificates, plaques and various awards of distinction.

Photography: We love to have photos of our music students performing. Join the photography committee to take photos at a specific event or take photos of a specific performing group throughout the year. You send your photos to the Web Site Chairperson to upload online for all to see!

Publicity Committee: There are so many amazing things happening with Performing Arts at Marriotts Ridge; we need to get the word out on all our exciting events. ***If you are resourceful and interested in promoting the name of Marriotts Ridge High School...communication specialists please get on board!***

Please help keep MRHS Music moving forward and sign up to help today!



Music Foundation

Fundraising & Your Student Account

The Music Foundation holds fundraisers throughout the school year which can benefit your Student Account, the Music Foundation or both. Fundraising, family patron donations and business patron donations are the three major sources of income for the Music Foundation. We encourage you to participate in fundraisers to help you offset the cost of your Spring Trip cost as well as to help the Music Foundation which provides music, instruments, transportation and much more for the MRHS music program.

What is a Student Account?

Your Student Account is a record of money you've either paid by check/cash or earned through the Music Foundation fundraisers toward the Spring Trip and other items such as ensemble maintenance fees. We recommend that you track your earnings from fundraisers during the year so you have an idea of how much you will owe for the Spring Trip.

Here's how fundraisers benefit your Student Account and the Music Foundation:

- **Yankee Candle/World's Finest Chocolate:** Students earn 35% profit on net sales. Student earnings are deposited into your student account.
- **Citrus Sales:** Students earn 15% profit on net sales. Student earnings are deposited into your student account.
- **Cash Cards:** For every Giant or Weis gift card you purchase, your Student Account will receive a 5% profit.

2016/17 Fundraising Schedule

Fundraiser	Profits Go To...	Estimated Start Date	Delivery Date (tentative)
Yankee Candle/WFC	Your Student Account	September	November
Citrus/Apple	Your Student Account and Music Foundation	October November December	November December January
Cash Cards	Your Student Account	September 2016 – May 2017 (sales held weekly)	



Family Patron Information 2016-2017

Dear Marriotts Ridge music families,

You know firsthand how important music can be in the lives of our students. The MRHS Music Foundation is committed to providing the best facilities, training and equipment for these students who proudly wear the school’s colors. High standards of excellence require a huge investment of time, energy and money, and the award-winning performances you enjoy each year require substantial volunteer hours and financial assistance from supporters throughout the community.

We invite you to become a Marriotts Ridge Music Patron for the current school year by making a donation of any amount in support of our programs. Remember to check whether your employer will match your donation! If you own a business, we encourage you to become a Business Patron. (Please refer to the Business Patron information and commitment forms.)

Your gift to the Music Foundation will help support the Marriotts Ridge band, orchestra, and choral programs in numerous ways, such as assisting with transportation, providing quality instruction, and buying and maintaining instruments, equipment, music and uniforms.

Families may contribute at several levels. All patrons will receive acknowledgement in the winter and spring concert programs for the current school year, plus the satisfaction of helping to maintain a high-quality music program that builds student leaders.

Additionally, patrons who donate \$100 or more will receive, in appreciation, the number of Patron Passes specified below. Each pass allows two people free admittance to all winter and spring music concerts for the current school year.

<u>Contribution Level</u>	<u>Bonus</u>
♪ Maestro Level.....\$500+	3 Patron Passes
♪ Concertmaster Level.....\$300-\$499	2 Patron Passes
♪ Whole Note Level.....\$100-\$299	1 Patron Pass
♪ Half Note Level.....\$50-\$99	
♪ Quarter Note Level.....\$25-\$49	
♪ Other.....We appreciate any amount!	

Please complete and submit the attached Family Patron Donation Form along with your tax-deductible check made payable to **MRHS Music Foundation**. Students may deposit donations in the black box near the music directors’ office at MRHS or mail them to the school at the following address:

MRHS Music Foundation Patron Program
12100 Woodford Drive
Marriottsville, MD 21104

Please email questions or comments to the Patron Program Chairperson at dionne.thorne@gmail.com



Marriotts Ridge High School Music Foundation Business Patron Benefits 2016-2017

WHAT IS THE MUSIC FOUNDATION?

The Marriotts Ridge High School (MRHS) Music Foundation raises funds and provides volunteer support for all aspects of the school’s music programs, which serve more than 300 students. Our income comes from family donations, business donations, concert ticket sales and fundraising.

The Music Foundation uses these funds to purchase instruments and musical scores, pay clinician fees for experts to work with the students, pay registration and transportation costs for competitions and other events, purchase and maintain uniforms and costumes, and provide other music-related equipment, as needed.

WHO ARE THE MRHS BUSINESS PATRONS?

MRHS Business Patrons are local businesses that partner with the Music Foundation to support Marriotts Ridge High School’s band, choral and orchestral music programs. Your support ensures that MRHS remains a leader in the arts in the State of Maryland.

WHAT ARE THE BUSINESS PATRON BENEFITS?

Business Patrons may choose from four tiers of support, with benefits dependent upon the level of financial commitment. These benefits apply only during the current school year.

Tier	Financial Commitment	Benefit Package
Copper Contributor	<\$100	*Business name listed in concert programs (one line subject to length specifications)
Bronze Contributor	\$100 - \$299	*Certificate provided for place of business *Business name listed in concert programs *Business name read prior to each music concert *Patron Pass good for two admissions to all winter and spring music concerts
Silver Contributor	\$300 - \$499	All Bronze level benefits PLUS business name displayed on poster at auditorium entrance prior to all music concerts PLUS one additional Patron Pass (total of two)
Gold Contributor	\$500 - \$999	All Silver level benefits PLUS business name projected on main screen of 850-seat auditorium prior to all music concerts PLUS one additional Patron Pass (total of three)
Platinum Contributor	\$1,000+	All Gold level benefits PLUS business name posted on website and in MRHS Music Foundation emails PLUS one additional Patron Pass (total of four)



Music Foundation Cash Cards

5% PROFIT FOR STUDENT ACCOUNTS:

For every Giant or Weis gift card you purchase, your student's account will receive a 5% profit. (i.e.: every \$100 purchased = \$5.00 profit for you!).

You can find the order form online at mrhsmusic.net and next to the black drop box by the school's music office.

Please fill out the form and instruct your child to place it in the black drop box by each Tuesday. The orders are filled on Wednesdays and distributed to your student by the Directors.

How Does Cash Cards Fundraiser Work?

We purchase Giant or Weis Gift Cards at a discount and sell them to you for face value. The 5% difference is profit for your student if the Cash Card order form is used. For instance, your neighbors, relatives, and family friends will be able to support your child by purchasing the cards via the order form—an easy and painless way to pay for this year's spring trip!

There is no limit to the number of cards you can purchase from us – you just shop as you normally would, pay with the gift card, and the profits go into your student's account.

There is no fee for using Giant or Weis gift cards. Giant Gift Cards can be redeemed at any of the Giant Food and Pharmacy stores operating in Maryland, Delaware, DC and Virginia. They may also be redeemed at Martin's, Peapod, and Stop&Shop. Weis gift cards can be redeemed anywhere in the continental U.S.

Both cards are non-refundable and are not redeemable for cash, but may be redeemed for any prescription purchases. The cards never expire and are not assessed with any fees.

If there are any questions or concerns please contact:

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wlkoller@verizon.net