



# Marriotts Ridge High School Band



12100 WOODFORD RD.  
MARRIOTTSVILLE, MD 21104  
410- 313-5573 FAX 410-313-5574

2017-2018

Dear Students and Parents,

If you are reading this you have passed a rigorous audition and have signed up to be a new member of the award winning Symphonic Wind Ensemble/Marching Band. You should be very proud of your accomplishment. You now belong to one of the top music programs in the state and nation. I would like to welcome you and give you some important information. Please take a few minutes to go over this information. It is important that both students and parents are “in the know.” It takes more than just great students to create a successful program. Family involvement plays just as vital of a role. The previous successes of our program have been the result of dedication, commitment, and hard work of our staff, our students and our wonderful families.

Please familiarize yourself with the MRHS Band website. Most all of the information you need will be available there. The web address is <http://www.mrhsbands.com>

All Wind and Percussion players accepted into this group are required to march as is stated in the course description in the high school course catalog. The marching band season lasts through the first quarter. The Symphonic Wind Ensemble is for the remaining 3 quarters.

During the marching band season the instrumentation of the winds is a bit different. At Marriotts Ridge we march piccolos, clarinets, alto saxophones, tenor saxophones, trumpets, mellophones, baritones, and tubas. All flute players play piccolos. All french horn players play mellophones. All trombone players play baritones. We have marching instruments to loan to all students needing a different instrument than their concert instrument. Students that play bass clarinet, and baritone sax have the option to play Bb soprano clarinet, tenor sax, alto sax, or play in the drum line or front percussion ensemble. Any woodwind player that might be interested in being in the drumline, front percussion ensemble or Color Guard could have that option. Please see Mr. Ellis directly if you are interested. No previous percussion or color guard experience is required. We will teach you everything you need to know.

Double reed players (Oboe and Bassoon) have the same options as above and I recommend that they participate in some way. Most double reed players have opted to be in the front percussion ensemble or the Color Guard, but the choice is based on what the individual wants. If approved by Mr. Ellis, a double reed player may choose to complete a quarter long research and performance project in lieu of marching. This is a rigorous and intensive project and will require significant hours of work both in school and out of school equivalent to the hours students may spend in marching band.



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All members of the Marching Band **MUST** be available for Marching Camp. The dates are as follows: **August 11, Leadership mini-camp for all new marchers 9-3pm. August 14-18 from 8 am to 4 pm, and August 21-23 from 1 pm to 9 pm, Aug 24 from 3-9pm and Friday Aug 25 from 2-8pm.** Please **do not** ask for exceptions. Be sure to plan your summer activities and vacations carefully. We will learn the entire competitive field show during camp. There is really no way to “catch up.” For those new to high school, students involved in athletics or marching band should plan on summer vacation ending three weeks before school starts. **Athletics and band work together so you can do both.** The only exception to this is varsity football players who will complete an alternative project.

**There are two rehearsals coming up for all members of the 2017-2018 marching band.** The rehearsals will be Monday, May 22<sup>rd</sup> and Tuesday, May 30<sup>th</sup> from **6:00-9:00pm**. We will begin to learn basic marching techniques and start rehearsing the music for the show. Students that need marching specific instruments will be issued them at the first rehearsal.

Included is a Fall marching calendar for 2017 through November. It contains all important dates and performances. Please be sure to resolve all conflicts ahead of time. The full marching band rehearsals performances appear in bold. Percussion nights on Tuesdays and Color Guard nights are on Mondays.

The theme of our show this year is Spanish Fantasy. The theme will be Spanish culture and feature music from a variety of sources. This show will be completely custom designed for our marching band

**VERY IMPORTANT!** We need all new students to complete the google form. Please follow the link below. Be sure to provide valid email addresses. **All communications and information will be sent via email so this step is vital.**

Link to the google form <https://goo.gl/forms/zooF3wITJyvTQOeR2>

Thank you for your attention to these items and I am very much looking forward to working with all of you and congratulations again!

Musically,

J. Nick Ellis, Director of Bands