

Marriotts Ridge High School Music



12100 Woodford Drive
Marriottsville, MD 21104
Sept 12, 2023

To: All Music Families
Fr: Band, Choral and Orchestra Directors
Re: Music Sectionals

Greetings, This message is to provide notification of music sectional pull-outs will begin this year starting in late September. Music sectionals are an integral part of the music curriculum for performance based music classes and are supported by our administration. For those of you that are new to the music sectional process, let us briefly explain the purpose. Howard County policy allows large music performing ensembles to be broken down into small groups by instrument for sectionals. The following statement is taken directly from the HCPSS High School course catalog: Students enrolling in the performance-based courses, such as those in band, chorus, and orchestra, should be aware that attendance at rehearsals, **sectional practices**, and performances is an integral part of the course. Every effort is made by directors to pre-arrange sectional and concert rehearsals, and to schedule these within the context of the school's master schedule.

During the sectional, we are better able to assess individual student performance, which is impractical with as many as 80 students in an ensemble. We are also able to teach fundamental principals that are idiosyncratic to each voice part or instrument. These skills cannot be fully addressed in a large group setting. **Students will have pass on sectional days as an exit ticket from class.**

The basic principles governing sectionals at Marriotts Ridge will be as follows and are designed to be as minimally intrusive to students' classes as possible:

- § Students may attend a sectional no more than once a week.
- § Students may miss the same class no more than twice a quarter, In many cases it be will only once.
- § Students will report to their regular class before coming to a sectional to check in and get information on what they may miss during their sectional. To allow for this, sectionals will not begin until 10 minutes into the class period
- § Students are expected to make up any work missed for a sectional. **We will emphasize this point with the students that it is their responsibility.** Students are encouraged to have a "buddy" in class to get handouts, notes, and any other important information that cannot be found online.
- § There are times when it may not be practical for a student to miss a class like on the day of a major unit test or group presentation. The sectional schedule will have flexibility and make-up opportunities to account for these circumstances.
- § Students will receive a signed **sectional pass** as an exit ticket from class.

Thank you for your assistance with this critical component to our program's success!