



# Rancho-Maze Middle School Band

J.H. Ostenson  
Director of Bands

1201 Rancho Drive  
Hollister, CA 95023

Rancho:(831) 636-4450  
Maze: (831) 636-4480

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August 13, 2008

Dear Rancho and Maze band parents:

Welcome to the 2008-2009 school year!

I am writing to give you some important information about the upcoming year's music program. Please take the time to completely read this letter as the upcoming year will have a combined student enrollment of over 140 students and with that will come some challenges.

## **General Rules**

In order to provide the best possible learning environment, I have established standards of expected behavior that are to be followed in my class. They are as follows:

### **Entering and Leaving**

Bring all instruments inside the Music Room before school begins. Please note the Hollister School District is not financially liable for musical instruments left overnight in the music room at either school. (If your child is going to leave his/her instrument at school overnight, it is suggested that you look into having the instrument insured. Insurance coverage for most musical instruments is often included or could be added to Homeowners and Renters insurance policies).

**ALL** students are expected to be inside the Band Room before the tardy bell rings. If a teacher detains you, please ask for a note from that teacher. Please note that three unexcused tardies will result in one afternoon detention. (The student turning in a practice record indicating one hour of practice at home signed by the parent may make up the detention.)

**ALL** students will have five minutes to get their instruments out and be in their places. Cases will be removed from the storage room and be set around the edges of the Band Room. Practice rooms will not be used to store cases.

At approximately five minutes before the end of the period I will stop the rehearsal and all equipment will be put away.

### **Rehearsal Procedure**

There will be no playing on instruments at any time except upon my request. When my left hand comes up, all talking will stop and all instruments will be brought to a resting position. When my right hand comes up all instruments will be brought up to a playing position.

When the baton comes down during the rehearsal, there will be no talking until indicated by the director.

Any supplies needed during the rehearsal such as reeds, valve oil, or tissues are to be picked up between songs.



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## Behavior

1. Students must respect the authority of the teacher.
2. There will be **NO** eating of food or gum chewing in the Band Room.
3. There will be no running in the room.
4. All students are to be using their own instruments and not playing with anyone else's.
5. All students will treat equipment and instruments in a responsible manner.
6. Students may enter and use equipment in my office **ONLY** with my approval.
7. When marching, all students will give the Drum Major or my assistants the same cooperation that I would expect.
8. Students may be excused to use the restroom only with the approval of the instructor.
9. All band students will be required to turn in a Practice Record once per week indicating 1 ½ hours of practice at home signed by his/her parent.
  - a) 1 ½ hours per week **required** (15 minutes per day w/Sunday off)
  - b) Blank practice records can be picked up in the Band Room or printed from the website.
  - c) Practice records for the previous week must be turned in by Friday
  - d) Students start with 100 points each grading period for the 1 ½ hours required
  - e) Students will receive +1 for each 30 minute block over 1 ½ hours
  - f) Students will receive -1 for each 30 minute block under 1 ½ hours
  - g) Students are responsible for adding up time totals for the week.
  - h) **PLEASE USE THE PRACTICE RECORD FORM ATTACHED! MAKE COPIES FOR HOME USE OR PICK UP A NEW ONE IN THE BAND ROOM OR ON THE WEB!**

## Failure to Follow Rules

All students should be aware that failure to follow these rules will result in the following consequences:

1. Conference with teacher after class
2. Conference with Parent
3. Detention
4. Conference with student, parent, teacher and the Vice Principal at School
5. Possible suspension or expulsion from the class

## Grading Procedure

Grades will be determined by averaging test scores, practice records, citizenship and attendance at special rehearsals and performances together. There are three **required** performances during the year: The Winter Concert, The County Music Festival, and The Spring Concert.

Marching Band and Jazz Band are extracurricular, and open only to advanced band students. Advanced Band students are encouraged to join the Marching Band, with the knowledge that there is an extra commitment and required Saturday practices in order to qualify for participation in competitions. Please note that students **must** maintain a "C" average in order to practice and/or perform with the Marching Band, Jazz Band or Color Guard.



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## Musical Instruments

Most students purchase or rent their own instruments. The Band has a few instruments which can be loaned to students on an as-needed basis. If your student will be borrowing an instrument from the band, you will need to sign an agreement and provide a \$50 fee which will cover normal cleaning and tuning at the end of the school year. If the instrument is returned in poor condition you may be responsible for the additional cost to repair it. If the instrument is damaged or lost during the school year, you will be responsible for its repair or replacement. Instruments and miscellaneous supplies are available at any music store. Some local stores are:

### Hollister Music

125 Fourth Street  
Hollister, CA  
634-1725

### Music Village

5885 Santa Teresa Bl.  
San Jose, CA  
(408) 629-1812

### The Music Tree

17470 Monterey Street  
Morgan Hill, CA  
(408) 779-4312

### Porcella's Music

7357 Monterey Street  
Gilroy, CA  
(408) 842-3712

## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Band:

Because of the large number of incoming 6<sup>th</sup> grade music students, there is not enough space in the advanced band class (1<sup>st</sup> period-Maze & 4<sup>th</sup> period-Rancho). Some 6<sup>th</sup> grade band members may be moved (with Ms. Silveira's recommendation), to advanced band. The remaining 6<sup>th</sup> grade band students will be in a 6<sup>th</sup> grade band class (2<sup>nd</sup> period-Maze & 5<sup>th</sup> period-Rancho). The 6<sup>th</sup> grade band class will be playing many of the same pieces as the advanced band, they will perform at the winter and spring school concerts but they will not be marching or participating in band competition. I feel that these class arrangements will provide the incoming 6<sup>th</sup> grade students with an opportunity to step into the middle school music program at a level that will better meet their needs.

## Marching Band and competition:

There are two extra-curricular optional Band activities; Marching/Competition Band and Jazz Band. Marching/competition Band members participate in 1 competition in the fall (San Jose Holiday Parade) and 3 or 4 band competitions in the spring (April/May). They also participate in the local parades throughout the year. This a **voluntary** activity which will require extra hours of practice after school and on selected weekends. In addition to the practice, a desire to work with the team during the many hours of practice is also required. The Rancho-Maze Marching Band has a tradition of excellence and commitment and has a wall full of trophies for their efforts. Marching and/Competition Band participation is open to any advanced band member.

## Jazz Band:

The award winning Jazz Band also participates in the 3 or 4 band competitions in the spring (April/May) as well as other local performances during the school year. This is a **Voluntary** activity which will require additional extra hours of practice after school (usually twice a week on Tuesday and Thursday). In addition to the practice, a desire to work with the team during the many hours of practice is also required. Any advanced band member may audition for Jazz Band.



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## Uniforms:

All Band members are required to have a complete uniform to be worn during concerts and competition. The uniform consists of black tuxedo pants, black band shoes, white tuxedo shirt and a blue bow tie and cummerbund. The uniform is purchased in bulk by the Rancho-Maze Band Boosters in order to assure all students have the same uniform. Uniform fitting will take place in September & October. The cost of the uniform is approximately \$90 and the items will be yours to keep. Students will be required to make payment in full for the uniform prior to pickup. The uniform is the same every year therefore this is a one-time cost. The Band Boosters will provide fundraising opportunities shortly to help offset these costs. Returning Band members who already have uniforms do not need to purchase new ones, but may trade pieces in if they have out-grown last years clothing.

Students participating in Marching Band will be issued a Band Jacket, Black Cummerbund and Hat. There will be an annual rental fee of \$15.00 for this uniform. Jazz Band members will have a separate uniform shirt for an additional cost of \$20. Transportation fees will also apply. Information on these items will be distributed at the Band Booster meetings on the first Thursday of every month in the Band Room at 7pm. Information is also available on the Band's web site at:  
[www.rancho-maze-band.org](http://www.rancho-maze-band.org)

## Performances:

**All** band members, including the 6<sup>th</sup> grade band members, will participate in the Rancho-Maze Band Christmas (Dec 2008) and Spring Concerts (May 2009) as well as the County Music Festival (April 2009). **Marching Band** members will also participate in the San Jose Holiday Parade in downtown San Jose on Sunday December 7, 2008 as well as the band reviews in the spring.

## Band Boosters:

The Rancho-Maze Band Boosters meets on the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM in the Rancho Band Room. Please join us and help make the music program a success. Our first meeting will be on THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 4 at 7:00 PM. The meeting will cover fundraising information as well as an overview of the music program.

## Communication:

In order to best keep everyone informed of the band's activities, I will be establishing an email distribution list. I will continue to distribute paper flyers to my students, but I will also send an email with the same information to those who have signed up for my email distribution. If you are interested, please complete the email section on the attached form and return it to me at school. You should also check our web site for the latest information as well as pictures of our events.

[www.rancho-maze-band.org](http://www.rancho-maze-band.org)

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## **Commitment:**

Because of the size of this year's music program, I will be looking for a strong commitment from all of my students. We will be working on many new music scores and some of them can be very complex. A commitment to working with me and with the rest of the band will make the entire year much more enjoyable for everyone. Our mantra for the year will be "One band, one sound". I look forward to seeing my returning 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade band members as well as meeting my incoming 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. Here's to a great year filled with music!

After having read through this information with your child, please sign and return the attached form. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

## **Long-live public school instrumental music!**

Sincerely,

Joe Ostenson, Band Director  
Rancho San Justo & Marguerite Maze Middle schools



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**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Please print

<b>Circle School:</b>	RANCHO	MAZE	
<b>Circle class:</b>	Advanced Band	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Band	Chorus

I have read and understand the rules set up by Mr. Ostenson with my child.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

**Please add me to the Rancho-Maze email list.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Please print

Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Please print *clearly*

**You can help with our fundraising, and it won't cost you a cent!**

Please give us your Safeway and Nob Hill card numbers and we'll register them so your purchases can earn money for the band. If you need a Nob Hill card, please let us know and we'll get one to you.  
THANKS!

Safeway card number : \_\_\_\_\_

Nob Hill card number: \_\_\_\_\_

I need a Nob Hill card : \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\* Instrument Rental Agreement on Reverse \*\*\*\*\*