Edison HS Marching Eagles Handbook

2014-2015 School Year Charlie J. Mitchell, Director of Bands www.EdisonBand.org

THIS BOOKLET IS A REFERENCE DOCUMENT—PLEASE KEEP!

This handbook contains important information about the policies and procedures for the Edison HS Marching Eagles. Information in this booklet pertains to members of the Marching Eagles as well as their parents/guardians. Students and parents/guardians should read all the information in this handbook carefully before committing to membership.

The last page of this booklet contains your contract for the 2014-2015 season. This is your formal declaration that you plan to participate in the marching program for the 2014-2015 season.

The contract page should be signed and submitted by the deadline found on page 8. Submit as follows:

- 1) hand delivered to the band director at your current school, or
- 2) faxed to Mr. Charlie Mitchell, Edison HS Director of Bands, fax # 703-924-8097.

Questions about the Marching Eagles should be directed to Mr. Mitchell, e-mail cjmitchell@fcps.edu

Checks for the marching band fee should be made payable to Edison High School

Eagle pride is school wide!

We support our football team, our cheerleaders, and all athletics and activities!

Dare to Soar!

www.EdisonBand.org

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Finances

Marching Band dues are \$300. You may pay the full \$300 amount by June 20, 2014. Checks should be made payable to Edison High School.

If there is an issue with that amount being paid by June 20th please contact Mr. Mitchell at <u>cjmitchell@fcps.edu</u> so he may address each issue on a case-by-case basis.

If you are eligible for free or reduced meals at school, Fairfax County will help pay for your marching fee.

If you decide not to march after June 20th after returning this contract, you are still responsible for the marching band fee.

Fees for the 2014 marching season are non-refundable.

Director Contact Information:

Charlie J. Mitchell ● 5801 Franconia Road Alexandria, VA 22310 phone 703-924-8018 ● fax 703-924-8097 ● cjmitchell@fcps.edu

SECTION 1: THE EDISON HS MARCHING EAGLES - AN OVERVIEW

The Edison HS Marching Eagles is a co-curricular program at Thomas A. Edison High School. Participation in the Marching Eagles will allow students to develop their musical knowledge and skills. Membership in the Marching Eagles is open to all who possess a positive attitude and a willingness to work hard as a member of the ensemble.

1A - BENEFITS OF MARCHING BAND

Marching band is an activity like no other. Every member is a starting player and students depend on each other to do their part for the team. This builds confidence, camaraderie, discipline, work ethic and focus.

1B - GENERAL EXPECTATIONS OF MEMBERS

This is a general list of what a student must do to positively contribute to the ensemble. All members are starting members, so it is critical that all share the same expectations of dedication to the ensemble. Please carefully consider the following and be sure you are committed to these expectations before you sign your contract.

Mandatory Attendance! For ALL rehearsals and performances for the entirety of the event. Any conflicts must be resolved prior to band camp. Appointments, etc., should be scheduled on days when the marching band does not rehearse, i.e., Mondays during the marching season.

- Drop-off: Arrive at least 15 minutes before rehearsal or report time, prepared and with proper equipment
- Pick-up: Plan for pick-up no later than 30 minutes after rehearsal ends or when buses return.
- Arrange for transportation to/from rehearsal ahead of time
- Participate in fundraisers, especially Tag Day
- Maintain your dot book and have it with you at all rehearsals
- Be respectful and supportive of one another
- Help with all aspects of preparing and cleaning up for marching band
- Respect your uniform, your director, your instructional staff, judges, event staff, drivers, parent chaperones and volunteers
- Follow instructions and the chain of command
- Act with integrity and positively represent yourself and your band at all times
- · Have fun and enjoy making music and art together

SECTION 2 - 2014 MARCHING SEASON—MANDATORY DATES

You are receiving this information with <u>ample time</u> to plan around these dates in late August through the first week of November. It is very important that **EVERYONE** is at <u>every</u> event. There is no one who can take your place or "fill in" for you. Please see the attendance policy for more information.

Monday August 18 – Friday, August 23 – Band Camp from 7:30 am – 4:00 pm Monday August 25 – Friday August 29 – Band Camp from 7:30 am – 11:00 am Friday, September 5, 2014 – Home Football Game vs West Springfield HS Friday, September 12, 2014 – Home Football Game vs Lee High September 13, 2014 7am - 5pm Tag Day Friday, September 26, 2014 – Home Football Game vs Wakefield High Saturday, September 27, 2014 – Oakton Classic Friday, October 17th 2014 – Home Football Game vs Washington Lee High Saturday, October 18, 2014 – JMU Parade of Champions Saturday, October 25th, 2014, USSBA VA State Championship Friday, October 31st 2014 – Home Football Game vs JEB Stuart High Saturday, November 1st, 2014 - VBODA Marching Assessment North & Capital

SECTION 3: ATTENDANCE AND OTHER EXPECTATIONS

3A: Attendance Policy - 100% of the schedule, 100% of the time

In a marching band, the absence of even **one** member affects the progress of the entire ensemble. At competitions, holes in the drill affect the performance and the scores of the ENTIRE band. Please take this very seriously and plan your fall so that you don't have issues.

MONDAY is the consistent day off. Mondays are your days to plan all private lessons/ tutoring/doctors' appointments/meetings with teachers/coaches, etc., and anything else.

Report time - This is the time all band members are to be in place, ready to receive instruction, or begin rehearsal. Be considerate of everyone's time by arriving <u>no later than 15 minutes</u> <u>before rehearsal start time</u> (to allow time to get equipment ready, etc.).

Arrival/departure—Arrange for ALL rides ahead of time. Plan on being picked up 15 minutes after rehearsal ends. This allows time for all band members to work as a team to stow equipment. Band member dismissal is at the direction of the drum major or Director.

Please note: No student should ever be picked up more than 30 minutes* after rehearsal ends. Be considerate of your director, the instructional staff, and the custodial staff. Arrive and depart in a timely manner.

*Every effort will be made to help students secure safe rides, but students who <u>consistently</u> abuse the time of others will be disciplined, up to and including dismissal from the ensemble.

Absences - unexcused absences are unacceptable.

- Students with even <u>one unexcused absence</u> will not be eligible to travel with the band. The only excused absences are attending a funeral, or illness requiring medical attention. If you are "under the weather," we ask that you come and participate at whatever level physically possible out of respect for your teammates. Parents are asked to use their best discretion when it comes to illness.
- Excused absences please make every effort to communicate the above excused absences directly TO THE BAND DIRECTOR and not by texting friends or other staff members.
- Students missing 3 or more rehearsals (excused or unexcused) may be made an alternate, will not receive a varsity letter, and will not be eligible to travel with the band.
- Students missing a competition or performance may be made an alternate, will not receive a varsity letter, and will not be eligible to travel with the band.

Lateness will not be tolerated.

More than <u>5 tardies to rehearsals</u> will be treated the same way as missing 3 or more rehearsals.

The above policies protect the education of all the students involved in marching band, as everyone suffers from even one member's inconsistent participation.

3B: Communication - Stay in Communication with the Band

Despite our best efforts, sometimes the band has to deal with a late change (report time), or some other issue. Visit www.edisonband.org regularly for announcements and updates. <u>Sign up</u> <u>to receive emails</u> from the director and the Edison Band Parents Organziataion (EBPO), our booster group, regarding band activities (rehearsal reminders, fundraisers, etc.).

To sign up to receive band emails, go to www.edisonband.org and click on e-mail lists or contact the band director or EPBO president.

3C: Be Prepared!

Students will need the following items for band camp and for rehearsals. Please add them to your "back to school" list so that you have them in time for band camp.

- **Tennis shoes** (running or cross trainers) These MUST tie over the top of your foot! No slip-ons. Save the converse shoes for off the marching field. It is hard to get proper technique when your shoes don't absorb shock or keep falling off. If you wouldn't run in them, don't wear them to Marching Band.
- **Dot book -** (A memo sized notebook on a lanyard or string) the 3" x 5" index cards- style booklet work the best because they stand up to rain and sweat.
- **Instrument, mouthpiece, reeds, etc.** (Marching baritones, tubas, horns, and percussion instruments are provided by the school. You will need sticks and your own mouthpiece and your own reeds. All woodwinds should have at least 3 reeds at all

times.)

Pencils - Notice that the word, "pencil" is plural. Yes, you will need one at all times.

Personal water bottle - All water bottles should be filled BEFORE rehearsal begins.

Hat or visor with brim/sunshades (keeps the sun out of your eyes when you are looking at the drum major)

SUNSCREEN! Bring it with you and reapply it often.

Fuel up - eat prior to coming to rehearsal! Marching band rehearsals are physically demanding. Please eat nutritious foods that provide you with energy for the duration of the rehearsal. (Avoid dairy products such as cheese, milk, etc. and carbonated beverages.)

3D: Suitable Attire (The Marching Eagle version of "What Not to Wear")

School-appropriate attire must be worn at all times. Some key points to remember:

- Loose fitting clothing that allows for ease of movement is recommended.
- Tank tops must cover undergarments.
- No spaghetti strap tanks or bare torsos, regardless of gender.
- Shorts should be of appropriate length, and be worn in a manner that covers all undergarments.
- Marchers will need to wear tennis shoes. No converse or flat shoes. Shoes must tie
 tightly across the foot. If you wouldn't run in them, don't wear them to marching band.
- Flip flops or other shoes may only be worn during sectionals. You must be able to mark time in them.
- Long pants should not drag on the ground so as not to trip you or others around you (however if it is hot outside, I would avoid long pants altogether if possible.)
- Consult the weather reports and dress appropriately.

3E: Dues and Fundraising

The cost of participating in Marching Band varies from year to year based on the number of students, costs of competition, food, transportation, etc. All dues collected benefit the member and the band program.

A NON-REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT OF \$300 IS DUE WITH THE SIGNED MARCHING BAND CONTRACT BY JUNE 20, 2014.

MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO "EDISON HIGH SCHOOL."

If this presents an issue, please contact Mr. Mitchell at cjmitchell@fcps.edu as to work out a payment plan that allows you to pay before the first day of band camp.

SECTION 4: UNIFORMS AND APPEARANCE

4A: Wearing the Uniform of the Marching Eagles

The uniform is symbolic of this activity; a tradition passed down from the days of military bands and it is to be treated with the UTMOST respect. When you wear our uniform, everything you do is tied to our reputation as a band. You will see other bands that do not observe these traditions. This does not make it right and it certainly isn't what we as Marching Eagles will do. Here are the general guidelines:

- Everyone must wear the uniforms **uniformly!** (e.g., We are all in full uniform or we are all in half-dress)
- "Full dress" is defined as: jacket, band t-shirt, bibs, black socks, black shoes.
- "Half dress" is defined as: band t-shirts, bibs, black socks, black shoes.
- Black socks that cover the ankle must be worn with your uniform. NO EXCEPTIONS!
- No jewelry. Any jewelry that cannot be removed must be covered by clothing or band aid.
- No nail polish.
- No make-up (those not in color guard.)
- Wear your "show shirt" under your jacket.
- Shorts must be worn under the bibs.
- Thermal undergarments (Under Armor or like brand) may also be worn if needed.

4B: Etiquette

The helmet or shako is ALWAYS carried level in the RIGHT hand with the insignia facing out. Never take the uniform on or off in public. Exceptions will be choreographed so that everyone looks the same and moves together.

In general, the uniform connects us all. Whatever we do, we do as a unit. (We all sit, we all stand, etc.)

Travel in pairs at a minimum of 3, no exceptions! (No solider left behind.)

Never run in uniform.

Never carry your helmet or shako upside down.

Someone's always watching...In certain competitions, violations to the above could cost the band points. Please be mindful.

Anytime you are with the band, wearing the uniform or band spirit wear, you are representing the band. Act accordingly.

When in the stands watching other bands, **BE QUIET** during their performances and if you comment afterwards, be supportive and respectful.

SECTION 5: FOOTBALL GAMES

5A: Home Football Games:

- All band equipment should be clean and "ready to go" when you arrive at report time.
- Remember that marching band is an outside activity and instruments should be cleaned regularly.
- Regulations regarding rehearsal are also in effect during all public performances.
- Only band members are allowed in the ranks. Do not allow "civilians" in our designated area or to cross through the band when we are moving as a unit.
- While seated in the stands, students will always sit/stand at assigned seats.
- We will play only as a group while in the stands. Solo performances or small ensemble must be pre-approved by Mr. Mitchell before the game.
- Sections are encouraged to work up brief musical selections to aid in the support of group spirit. These "cheers" must be approved by the band staff prior to the start of the game.
- Your primary role during the game is to support the team and our school by playing at appropriate times. <u>Pay attention to the game</u>, cheer at appropriate times, and work in conjunction with the cheerleaders to get the crowd involved in the game (that is, BE LOUD!)
- Eating is only permitted during 3rd quarter <u>and</u> with your uniform jacket off. We will assemble as a group after the halftime performance and take off helmets and jackets as a group before anyone is dismissed. Your jacket will be folded according to uniform customs with your helmet placed on top, emblem facing out.
- Water may be consumed in uniform during any quarter but cannot be brought to you by a non-chaperone.

SECTION 6: SPRING TRIP ELIGIBILITY

Each year, a spring trip is planned to provide an opportunity for each student to experience musical opportunities outside of the school setting. Whether it be performances, clinics, festivals or competitions. These are meant to be educational but also fun as a reward for a year of hard work and dedication......

For students to be eligible to travel in the spring with the band they must meet the following criteria.

- Be in good standing in band (no discipline problems or attendance issues)
- Band dues and the trip costs are paid in full (through check or fundraising) before the trip is taken
- No referrals from director
- No suspensions
- Meet Academic Eligibility Standards
- Be a member of Marching Band AND be enrolled in a curricular music class (with the exception of color guard.)

There is a separate cost for the trip (usually \$400-\$600 depending on location and activities).

There will be fundraisers through the winter and spring to help families with the cost of the spring trip. The spring trip is optional and not a required part of membership in the marching band, but is strongly encouraged. All funds for the spring trip are due by 1 Month prior to the trip date. All other fees must be paid in full.

SECTION 7: THE EDISON BAND PARENT ORGANIZATION (EBPO)

To be a successful, comprehensive music education program, the Edison Bands rely upon the support of parents, guardians, extended family, and the community at large. To facilitate the coordination of resources to benefit the student musicians of Edison, the instrumental music program collaborates with the EBPO.

7A: The purpose of the EBPO

- Provide support for a strong music education program at Edison High School that encourages student participation in band program activities; and
- Promote organized and active family and community support of the Edison band program, to include:
 - Organizing and executing events to raise funds to underwrite band program expenses not covered by public funds;
 - o Assisting as needed in the coordination and execution of band program activities; and
 - Stimulating community interest in and support of the Edison band program.

7B: Membership in the EBPO

Membership in the EBPO is automatic to all parents/guardians of Edison High School band program students. There are no dues. The EBPO conducts regular monthly meetings on the last Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM in the Edison Band Room.

7C: Volunteer Opportunities

All parents are asked to volunteer to help sustain the quality of the band programs at Edison HS. Some examples of adult volunteer opportunities include:

Drivers for tag day

Chaperones for home and away football games

Chaperones for competitions

Pit crew duties (move equipment on/off the field, transport same to competitions)

Chairperson of a committee

Prepare or purchase food for band meals (most times this is prior to competitions)
Provide cases of water or Gatorade

... and more

More information is available at the EBPO meetings and in e-mail communications, and at the band website, www.edisonband.org.

www.EdisonBand.org

Concert Band

This class is open to all who have met the prerequisite of 1) playing a concert instrument for at least 2 pervious years or 2) being placed through auditions. This is a performance group and will use certain performances as Exam Grades.

Fees:

If the student does not own their own instrument there is an instrument rental fee to be turned in with an instrument rental contract. The Fee is \$46 per semester **or** \$92 for the year.

Those students who have filled out paper work for free and reduced lunch will receive a reduced fee of \$20 to be charged for instrument rentals.

There is also a \$100 fee (if you have paid to be in marching band, you have already paid this fee) that will be used for consumable items for the student (Reeds, Mouthpieces, Folders, Audition Entry Fees, etc.) All those who qualify for assistance, please mark on the detach page with this fee.

Materials Needed:

The Student will need an instrument. If the student does not own a personal instrument, they will be provided with an instrument rental contract and will be provided with an instrument.

Student will need a pencil at all times, their planner, their instrument and music.

Textbook:

Textbooks are issued for students to use as a reference and take home for practice. The main text book for this course are the Treasury of Scales Method Book (Leonard B. Smith) and the Foundations for Superior Performance book (Richard Williams and Jeff King). The replacement cost these text are \$7.00 for Foundations and \$6.50 for Treasury of Scales. Several other books, scores, and various handouts will be used as well to supplement the curriculum.

Expectations for Band and Band Room

BE: Early, Prepared, Courteous, Attentive, Involved, Positive

Do not: Eat in the Band room, chew gum in the band room, nor bring civilians (non-band/guitar members) in the band room.

Do: Clean up after yourself, return object to where you found them.

Grades and Final Exam:

If you miss a test, assignment, etc., you will have only 3 days to make it up. You will not get credit for work that is not made up and a failing grade will be entered for the assignment. The student must schedule a makeup with the teacher promptly.

All students have graded final exams for the designated exam period. The final will be performance based, cumulative.

Permission to Take a Final Exam Early:

Teachers must receive requests for missing a scheduled final exam at least one week prior to the exam. The request must be in the form of a letter from the parent, and must include the reason to warrant a deferral. If approved, the student will take their final exams at the

teacher's discretion. The content administrator should be notified in the event of an early exam. If teachers deem it necessary, then arrangements can be made with their students to take their exam with an administrator after school has dismissed for the summer.

FCPS Grading Scale

- A (93-100) = 4.0
- A- (90-92) = 3.7
- B+(87-89)=3.3
- B (83-86) = 3.0
- B- (80-82) = 2.7
- C+ (77-79) = 2.3
- C (73-76) = 2.0
- C- (70-72) = 1.7
- D+ (67-69) = 1.3
- D (64-66) = 1.0
- F (below 64) = 0.0

All Performances are considered Major Exams and will be graded accordingly

Academic Integrity:

There will be absolutely no tolerance for cheating in any form. Cheating is giving or receiving unauthorized aid on any assignment. It is important that students do their own work to maximize their learning. Portable communication devices found in use during any testing environment will result in confiscation. Students with issues of plagiarism, use of electronic devices during an assessment and other forms of cheating will be referred to their administrator and teachers will contact parents/guardians.

Edison Performance Dates:

September 27th – Oakton Classic – Oakton High School (MB)

October 18th – JMU Parade of Champions – Harrisonburg Virginia (MB)

October 25th – USSBA State Championship – Norfolk (MB)

November 1st – VBODA Marching Assessment – South Lakes High School (MB)

December 3rd – Winter Concert – Auditorium

December 17 – 18 – Tiny Tots – Auditorium

March 6 – 7 – District Band Assessment – Edison High School

April 10-11 or April 17 – 18th – Solo and Ensemble Festival – Key Middle School

April 26 – 29th – Spring Trip? - TBD

May 20th – Spring Band Concert – Edison Auditorium

Graduation

Audition Dates:

September 29th – Senior Regional Orchestra – West Potomac High School **Must be Registered by Director by September 18th.**December 13th – District Band Auditions – Falls church High School

January 21st – District Jazz Auditions – Hammond Middle School

District Group Rehearsal and Performance Dates:

November 6-8 –Senior Regional Orchestra Event January $29^{th}-31^{st}$ – District Jazz Event – Episcopal High School February $5-7^{th}$ – District Band Event

Attendance

All Teachers follow Fairfax county Public Schools regulations for attendance. Please refer to Student Rights and Responsibilities Regulation 2601.25P.

Teacher Info:

Charlie J. Mitchell

Email: cjmitchell@fcps.edu
Phone: 703-924-8018

I (parent/guardian) the commitments for my student to be in the Edison Symphonic Band.	_ have read	and acknowledge
Parent/Guardian Signature		-
Parent/Guardian Email (PRINT)		
Parent/Guardian Preferred Telephone #		-
Student Name (Print)		_
Student Signature		-
Check Box if enrolled in free and reduced lunch.		

Sign, detach, and return to Mr. Mitchell by September 8th, 2014

Concert Band

This class is open to all who have met the prerequisite of 1) playing a concert instrument for at least 2 pervious years or 2) being placed through auditions. This is a performance group and will use certain performances as Exam Grades.

Fees:

If the student does not own their own instrument there is an instrument rental fee to be turned in with an instrument rental contract. The Fee is \$26 per semester **or** \$52 for the year.

Those students who have filled out paper work for free and reduced lunch will receive a reduced fee of \$20 to be charged for instrument rentals.

There is also a \$100 fee (if you have paid to be in marching band, you have already paid this fee) that will be used for consumable items for the student (Mallets, Sticks, Pads, Audition Entry Fees, etc.) All those who qualify for assistance, please mark on the detach page with this fee.

Materials Needed:

The Student will sticks and mallets.

Student will need a pencil at all times, their planner, their instrument and music.

Textbook:

Textbooks are issued for students to use as a reference and take home for practice. The main text book for this course are the Treasury of Scales Method Book (Leonard B. Smith) and the Foundations for Superior Performance book (Richard Williams and Jeff King). The replacement cost these text are \$7.00 for Foundations and \$6.50 for Treasury of Scales. Several other books, scores, and various handouts will be used as well to supplement the curriculum.

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Parent/Guardian Preferred Telephone #		-
Student Name (Print)		_
Student Signature		-
Check Box if enrolled in free and reduced lunch.		

Sign, detach, and return to Mr. Mitchell by September 8th, 2014

Symphonic Band

This class is open to all who have met the prerequisite of 1) Participating in Marching Band for the Current School year and 2) being placed through auditions. This is a performance group and will use certain performances as Exam Grades.

Fees:

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Teachers must receive requests for missing a scheduled final exam at least one week prior to the exam. The request must be in the form of a letter from the parent, and must include the reason to warrant a deferral. If approved, the student will take their final exams at the

teacher's discretion. The content administrator should be notified in the event of an early exam. If teachers deem it necessary, then arrangements can be made with their students to take their exam with an administrator after school has dismissed for the summer.

FCPS Grading Scale

- A (93-100) = 4.0
- A- (90-92) = 3.7
- B+(87-89)=3.3
- B (83-86) = 3.0
- B- (80-82) = 2.7
- C+ (77-79) = 2.3
- C (73-76) = 2.0
- C- (70-72) = 1.7
- D+ (67-69) = 1.3
- D (64-66) = 1.0
- F (below 64) = 0.0

All Performances are considered Major Exams and will be graded accordingly

Academic Integrity:

There will be absolutely no tolerance for cheating in any form. Cheating is giving or receiving unauthorized aid on any assignment. It is important that students do their own work to maximize their learning. Portable communication devices found in use during any testing environment will result in confiscation. Students with issues of plagiarism, use of electronic devices during an assessment and other forms of cheating will be referred to their administrator and teachers will contact parents/guardians.

Edison Performance Dates:

September 27th – Oakton Classic – Oakton High School (MB)

October 18th – JMU Parade of Champions – Harrisonburg Virginia (MB)

October 25th – USSBA State Championship – Norfolk (MB)

November 1st – VBODA Marching Assessment – South Lakes High School (MB)

December 3rd – Winter Concert – Auditorium

December 17 – 18 – Tiny Tots – Auditorium

March 6 – 7 – District Band Assessment – Edison High School

April 10-11 or April 17 – 18th – Solo and Ensemble Festival – Key Middle School

April 26 – 29th – Spring Trip? - TBD

May 20th – Spring Band Concert – Edison Auditorium

Graduation

Audition Dates:

September 29th – Senior Regional Orchestra – West Potomac High School **Must be Registered by Director by September 18th.**December 13th – District Band Auditions – Falls church High School

January 21st – District Jazz Auditions – Hammond Middle School

District Group Rehearsal and Performance Dates:

November 6-8 –Senior Regional Orchestra Event January $29^{th}-31^{st}$ – District Jazz Event – Episcopal High School February $5-7^{th}$ – District Band Event

Attendance

All Teachers follow Fairfax county Public Schools regulations for attendance. Please refer to Student Rights and Responsibilities Regulation 2601.25P.

Teacher Info:

Charlie J. Mitchell

Email: cjmitchell@fcps.edu
Phone: 703-924-8018

I (parent/guardian)	have read	and acknowledge
the commitments for my student to be in the Edison Symphonic Band.		
Parent/Guardian Signature		-
Parent/Guardian Email (PRINT)		
Parent/Guardian Preferred Telephone #		_
Student Name (Print)		
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		_
Student Signature		
•		-
Check Box if enrolled in free and reduced lunch.		

Sign, detach, and return to Mr. Mitchell by September 8th, 2014