



2014-2015

**MOUNT VERNON HIGH SCHOOL
MARCHING MAJORS**

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

**Please fill out all information and
return (with a \$50.00 deposit/commitment fee)**

NO LATER THAN JUNE 30, 2014.

MVHS BAND, attn. Richard Bacz

8515 Old Mt. Vernon Rd.

Alexandria, VA 22309



May 25, 2014

Dear Students, Parents and Guardians of the Mount Vernon Marching Majors:

Welcome to the 2014-2015 Marching Majors. You are about to join one of the most successful organizations at Mount Vernon High School! Get ready to build long-lasting memories, have fun while working towards some incredible goals, make friends, and bring a tremendous amount of pride to yourself, your peers and Mount Vernon!

We are excited to have you participate in the 2014-2015 marching season. While band does require a commitment of time and effort, we firmly believe that all of the benefits and rewards are worth it. The skills you will develop, as well as the relationships you build with your MVHS peers, will help you succeed in all areas of your life and school experience.

Marching band expenses this year will be no more than \$220.00 (for a brand new marcher) one of the *lowest in the county!* These fees pay for music and drill routines/workbooks specifically written for our band, social activities, uniform essentials, and treats for all. Cost should ***NEVER*** be an issue on whether or not your student marches. Our wonderful booster organization and the county are working diligently to continue lowering costs. We have many opportunities to make this work for everyone, including direct student fund-raising opportunities.

The feeling of teamwork and camaraderie does not stop with the students, but also extends to the parents. Our MVHS Marching Majors program excels and succeeds with student AND PARENT involvement. Please join the Band Boosters organization to help make our marching season successful. Parents represent another important section for this ensemble. The Boosters communicate primarily through e-mails -- SO FILL OUT your e-mail address on the application to ensure you will receive correspondence regarding events, booster meetings, and program needs as they arise.

Should you have any questions, feel free to contact either of us with the information below.

Fondly,

Richard A. Bacz
Director of Bands
703/619-3163
RABacz@fcps.edu

Welcome Marchers

In order to clarify who should and must march, please know that according to Fairfax County curriculum guidelines, students in Advanced Band at FCPS high schools are **REQUIRED TO MARCH**. Students enrolled in Intermediate Band level course can elect to march, and are encouraged to do so. Scheduled afterschool rehearsals and performances are required – and a general timeline follows. Note: Color Guard marchers do not have to be enrolled in a band class, although many that play an instrument are.

General Financial Information

These forms and costs may seem overwhelming but we will work with you in every way to make this a great experience for you and your student. Expenses are detailed in the next page. Please keep in mind that all payments for materials/fees will be deposited to Mount Vernon High School!

I) Marching Band Supplemental Expenses and Pre-season Supplements: These expenses cover the additional costs and expenses of the pre-season marching band training & instruction.

II) FCPS Fall Marching Band Fee. These costs are for consumable items (i.e. items that are used by the student, but not returned to the school) and required expenses for each student. Included in this fee are: Drill Workbook, Music Workbook, Uniform accessories, and Uniform rental/cleaning/maintenance.

III) Consumable Items as needed. These items are needed by all new marchers, but may/may not be needed by a returning marcher. They are itemized to help each parent itemize and total their costs. Costs for uniform parts (gloves, shoes) will cover the basic needs for a season – there will be additional gloves available for sale for students who need them.

In addition to the required fees, there are often additional Spirit Wear items (band theme shirts, sweatshirts, etc). These non-required items are sold by the MVHS Band Booster Association and handled specifically by the Booster board.

In order to defray some of the costs of your student's band fees, various fund-raisers are held during the year. The amount the student sells directly offsets his/her band fees. In addition, marchers will participate in Tag Day on September 6th for the Booster general fund – this is our single most important fund raiser, and one that takes not only the participation of every marcher, but parents as well.

TENTATIVE MARCHING BAND SCHEDULE -- as of 7/13/14

SUMMER BAND

August 11 – 12	New member & Section Leader camp 8:00am-11:00am Full Band 11:00am – 4:00pm (Bring Lunch)
August 13-15	Full Band Rehearsals 8:00am-4:00pm
August 18 - 22	Full rehearsals 8:00am - 4:00pm
August 25, 26	Full rehearsals 6:00pm - 8:00pm

Note: sectionals may occur prior to August 11 or after 4:00pm (brief) for any section. Their individual instructor will communicate these times in advance.

FALL REHEARSALS

Full Band rehearses Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays from 3:00-5:30.

COLORGUARD SECTIONALS: 6:00-8:00pm TBD

DRUMLINE/PIT SECTIONALS: 6:00-8:00pm TBD

(These sections will have a modified weekly rehearsal schedule to adjust for the evening hours (this means on certain weeks they will not have an afternoon rehearsal with the full band)

FALL EVENTS

August 28	Football (H) v. Edison	report 5:45pm
September 5	Football (H) v. Herndon	report 5:45pm
September 6	TAG DAY	report 8:00am
September 12	Football (H) v. South County	report 5:45pm
September 19	Football (A) v. Robinson## (Tentative for band)	depart 5:45pm
September 27	COMPETITION: OAKTON CLASSIC	TBA (afternoon show)
October 4	COMPETITION: Spotsylvania HS	TBA (evening show)
October 11	COMPETITION: Reservoir HS	TBA
	COMPETITION: Paint Branch HS	TBA
October 17	Football (H) v. Falls Church/HOMECOMING	report 5:45pm
October 18	COMPETITION: US Naval Academy Invitational	TBA (afternoon show)
October 24	Football (H) v. Hayfield (Senior Night)	report 5:45pm
November 1	VBODA State Marching Band Assessment:	TBA (morning/afternoon)
November 7	Football (A) v. Wakefield##	depart 6:00pm

****PLEASE NOTE:** Competition times are not released by the host until 1 week prior to the date. It is commonplace to rehearse on the morning of a competition, and spend a majority of the day at the site. Please set aside the entire time Saturday for each competition date until more information can be provided.

The band plays at all HOME Varsity football games and playoffs if they occur (weekends after 11/7/14).

These games are listed for reference only at this time. Should the band opt to travel to any of these games to perform as a pep band, musicians are asked to attend at least one game.

2014-15 Marching Majors Registration Form & Deposit

- **Complete pages 5-7 and return with your check for \$50 needed by JUNE 30, 2014**
- **Return page 8 along with your final payments and Emergency Care form by August 11, 2014.**

Please fill in ALL of the information requested. We will use this information to set up our email database and will be contacting you over the summer with important announcements.

Student Information:

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Home Phone _____ Student's Cell Phone _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Student's e-mail: _____

Number of years in Marching Majors _____

Year of HS Graduation (check) 2015 ☐ 2016 ☐ 2017 ☐ 2018 ☐

Instrument(s) _____ Colorguard _____ Pit _____

Parent/Guardian Information:

Parent /Guardian 1

Name: _____

Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

Parent /Guardian 2

Parent Help (check at least one):

UNIFORM DISTRIBUTION ☐

HOSPITALITY ☐

TRIP PLANNING ☐

WEB PAGE DESIGN ☐

EQUIP. CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE ☐

SEWING ☐

GUARD PARENT ☐

CHAPERONE ☐

FUNDRAISING/WAYS & MEANS ☐

PUBLICITY ☐

CONCESSIONS ☐

PIT CREW ☐

Listed below are the anticipated costs for the Marching Majors. There will be fundraising opportunities available to offset personal costs. The payments are divided by categories (I, II, III) as each payment will be deposited to specific MVHS school accounts. Category III lists expenses that may/may not pertain to each participant – please total the specific items that your student needs – orders for these will take place in August (no payment required until that time).

Please make all payments to “MVHS Bands”. Each category must have its own check/money order.

PLEASE NOTE: FCPS has been working on their 2014-15 fiscal budget – which at this writing is yet to be finalized; therefore, funding to all high school marching bands has not been disclosed. We are basing our fees without any funding to our program so that any changes to the costs would be a reduction (once final funding has been completed). Refunds will be sent to those who have already paid in full.

I. SUMMER MARCHING SUPPLEMENT for all marchers:

Instructional components: 40.00
Refreshments: 10.00

TOTAL: \$50:00

II. FALL MARCHING ADDITIONAL FEES FOR ALL MARCHERS:

Music Workbook.....30.00
Drill Workbook..... 40.00
Black Shoes (wind/percussion musicians).....35.00

TOTAL: \$105.00

III. ADDITIONAL A LA CARTE EXPENSES (individual needs accordingly)

ORDER IN AUGUST:

Black Gloves (wind musicians only)..... 6.00*
White Gloves (wind musicians only)..... 6.00*
Black T-Shirt (wind musicians only).....7.00*
MV Band Track Suit jacket (all members who need)...45.00*
Colorguard undergarments (Colorguard only)..15.00#

(check/Money order payable to “Mount Vernon HS Band”)

Students who are registered for the Free/Reduced Lunch program in FCPS do not pay the (category II) Fall Marching Fees.

** returning members owe this ONLY if a replacement item is needed. If not, the cost can be deducted from balance.*

these expenses are estimated; however, due to costume needs and equipment needs, they may be adjusted or removed.

Fees and Forms must be received by August 14, 2014.

FORM LINKS ON THE F.C.P.S. WEBSITE:

A hard copy of each required form is attached in this packet. Additional copies of all forms may be found using these links:

Emergency Contact Form: <http://www.fcps.edu/it/forms/se3.pdf>

_Medical Authorization: <http://www.fcps.edu/it/forms/se63.pdf>

Epinephrine Authorization: <http://www.fcps.edu/it/forms/se64.pdf>

Inhaler Authorization: <http://www.fcps.edu/it/forms/se65.pdf>

If a form does not apply to a participant (i.e. inhaler), please put the name on the form, and place a large slash down the entire sheet.

Questions? Please contact the Director of Bands:

**Richard Bacz
Mount Vernon HS
8515 Old Mount Vernon Rd
Alexandria, VA 22309
703-619-3163 (office)
RABacz@fcps.edu**

MOUNT VERNON MARCHING MAJORS – 2014 Fee Slip
(please detach and return with payment)

STUDENT NAME _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME _____

PAYMENT #1 – \$50.00 For: Summer band supplement

Make checks payable to: *MOUNT VERNON HS BAND*

CHECK # _____

MOUNT VERNON MARCHING MAJORS – 2014 Fee Slip
(please detach and return with payment)

STUDENT NAME _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME _____

PAYMENT #2 – \$105.00 For: Marching Band Fees

Make checks payable to: *MOUNT VERNON HS BAND*

CHECK # _____

Note: Payment 3 fee slip will be given to students in August with order form to complete

Mount Vernon High School Bands
INTERMEDIATE BAND SYLLABUS
2014-2015

Richard A. Bacz, Instructor
703-619-3163 (office)
RABacz@fcps.edu

I. OVERVIEW:

Intermediate Band is reserved for students who show developing technical proficiency, a basic ability of musical expression, and a commitment to musical growth. As a traditional band setting contains many different instruments (with specific learning needs), students will receive: individual guidance on their instrument, collective instruction on music reading, and a focus of performing as an ensemble. Students in this class are expected to be able to handle all course requirements and additional time for rehearsals and performances as scheduled afterschool.

Regardless of class, every student in the program will experience a wide variety of musical experiences shaped by the selection of quality literature that will expand and develop each student's artistic awareness, technical proficiency, and musicianship.

II. BLACKBOARD:

Mount Vernon High School uses the FCPS Blackboard system (24-7 Learning) for information and assignments regarding all classes. For detailed information, go to:

<http://fcps.blackboard.com/>

Additional calendar information and news items regarding the band organization may also be found on our Band Booster website:

<http://www.mvhsbandboosters.org>

III. OBJECTIVES:

- * Students studying wind instruments will learn and be able to demonstrate the correct embouchure, playing position, hand position, breathing techniques, and articulation as it relates to their instrument.
- * Students studying wind instruments will develop a characteristic tone quality, and develop the skills necessary for intonation
- * Students studying percussion will learn and be able to demonstrate the correct playing position & hand position for all percussion instruments, stroke techniques/articulation, and tone production as it relates to these instruments
- * All students will learn basic rhythm and tempo structure, and apply to their performance
- * All students will understand and interpret a variety of rhythms, tempo, and meter through the music studied.
- * All students will learn musicianship/interpretive skills necessary for development, such as dynamics, phrasing, etc.
- * All students will learn and demonstrate proper instrument care and handling.

Every student in the program will experience a wide variety of musical experiences shaped by the selection of quality literature that will expand and develop each student's artistic awareness, technical proficiency, and musicianship.

IV. EQUIPMENT EXPECTATIONS

Students in this program that play a wind instrument are expected to have an instrument of quality in top working order.

- Students may either own their instrument, or secure one through a local store rental/purchase plan
- Students who perform on larger instruments that are not available through local store plans, may rent one from FCPS (fees are explained in section VIa)
- Students who perform on Flute, Clarinet, Trumpet, or Trombone may also rent an instrument through the FCPS IFA (Instruments for All) program. Costs are explained in Via.
- Students who perform on percussion will be assessed a rental fee similar to the wind instrument IFA program. These fees will be used to maintain the percussion instruments
- Students who perform on percussion will be expected to own their own concert snare drum sticks, a practice pad, and 1 pair of medium cord mallets. These items must be purchased at a local music store or online store (please contact the teacher for contact information)
- Any accessories necessary to perform on an instrument (reeds, sticks, etc) throughout the year are the responsibility of the student. They may be purchased locally or online; MVHS does NOT supply or sell any accessories. Students must have these items for every class.
- Students must bring a 3 ring binder to class daily to hold music, handouts, etc..

All band students will be provided an instrument storage locker to store their band instrument and music items. A Combination Padlock will be provided by the school with the combination (teacher will have a key access). It is also required that instruments and cases are secured when not in use: student's who do not comply will receive:

- 1) First Offense – warning by the teacher
 - 2) Second Offense – warning by the teacher & contact made with the parent/guardian to discuss the problem
 - 3) Third Offense – student will be referred to their Principal for not following class rules.
- Instruments that are owned by FCPS may be surrendered for the remainder of the year, as per the conditions set by the Instrument Use contract completed by the student and parent/guardian.

Since each band class is ensemble in nature, the success of the class is determined by every student's preparation and participation daily. Each student is responsible and accountable for personal and ensemble growth. Students who have elected to enroll must uphold the standards and legacy of the Mount Vernon High School Band Program.

V. CLASSROOM RULES

1. Students are expected to be prompt to class. When entering the band area, all students should immediately be seated for attendance. After attendance and instructions, students will obtain their instrument from the locker.
2. As mentioned above, students are to be fully prepared for class on a daily basis.
3. Students will refrain from talking or extraneous noise during class. When a section or small group are being instructed, students not directly involved should study another music passage.
4. ABSOLUTELY NO FOOD OR DRINK IN THE MUSIC ROOMS. Bottled water may be allowed at the discretion of the Director of Bands.

5. ABSOLUTELY NO GUM CHEWING, for the protection of instruments, the facility, and also your top performance.
6. Students will clean and pack their instrument when asked to do so at the end of class, and wait in the band room until the dismissal bell.
7. Practice rooms are available for individual/small group study by permission of the music teachers. The same classroom behaviors apply. At no time may a room be occupied by students when a music teacher is unavailable for supervision.

Via. EXPENSES-INSTRUMENTS

As a music student, there are some expenses that occur by nature of the class. Every student must have an instrument, either by purchase or rental through private company or FCPS. FCPS does not have every instrument in inventory, nor do they stock instruments of Intermediate or Professional quality.

The following includes rental information for county-owned instruments:

Students using FCPS instruments will be assessed the following fee:

H.S. Wind Instruments: 46.00 per semester

H.S. Percussion Instruments: 26.00 per semester

H.S. Free & Reduced Lunch: 20.00 per school year for ALL instruments

H.S. Shared Instruments (1 instrument used by 2 students): half of the semester price.

note: (students who are asked to switch instruments during a school year from a privately owned instrument to an instrument owned by FCPS for daily performance will not be assessed a fee for that school year)

CHECKS FOR INSTRUMENT RENTALS ARE PAYABLE TO "Mount Vernon HS Band"
Payment is due before instrument can be obtained.

Vib. EXPENSES -UNIFORM

A concert uniform is required for all performances:

GIRLS: Long Black Dress (provided by student) *must conform to school dress code and Director's expectations/examples

Black Dress shoes/hosiery (provided by student)

BOYS: Black Tuxedo \$25.00 (rented by student/paid to MVHS Band Boosters)

Black dress shoes/hosiery (provided by student)

White wing-tipped shirt (provided by student)

Vic.EXPENSES - MATERIALS FEE (all members): Students enrolled in a band class will incur a \$25.00 materials fee, used for consumable items for each student.

CHECKS FOR MATERIALS FEES ARE MADE OUT TO "Mount Vernon High School Band"
Payment is due by October 1, 2014.

*NOTE: STUDENTS ON THE FREE/REDUCED LUNCH PLAN DO **NOT** PAY THIS FEE*

VId. FUNDRAISING

The Mount Vernon HS Band Boosters sponsor several fund raisers designed to assist students with uniform expenses. Participation is strictly voluntary; however, students are encouraged to utilize this effective means of reducing out-of-pocket expenses.

VII. GRADING

1) Ensemble Rehearsal Skills (40%)

Ensemble rehearsal skills replace the participation section of the grade. Students will be assessed informally on these mastery skills at every rehearsal. The grades from each grading period will be averaged and will be used as part of your audition for next year's bands. Ensemble rehearsal skills include:

- * Being at the right place at the right time when rehearsal is scheduled to begin.
- * Having music, pencils, instrument and necessary materials. Instruments must be in optimal condition with all needed supplies necessary to maintain the condition of your instrument. All needed accessories (mutes, mallets, etc) with you in place at the start of rehearsal.
- * Listening to and following all instructions and announcements. **No talking!**
- * Maintaining your attention on the rehearsal without being distracted.
- * Music prepared at home and ready to be rehearsed in class! (i.e., practice at home!)
- * Listening to and adjusting how you sound within the context of the ensemble (balance, blend, tuning, tone, etc)

After-School Rehearsals/Sectionals

All after-school rehearsals are mandatory, as they are used in preparation for upcoming performances. Students earn 50 points per rehearsal. Students unable to attend an after-school rehearsal must notify the director at least **48 hours in advance** of the absence.

2) Performance Grades (30%)

Performances include: concerts as scheduled, pep-rallies, community events, Adjudication Festivals, District Band auditions, Solo & Ensemble Festival. All performances are considered assessments of mastery; unfortunately, there are few options to replicate mastery of ensemble skills. Students who miss a performance that is deemed excused by the Director will be given an alternative assignment (usually a solo performance live or video recorded) in an effort to help the student display mastery of individual components that relate to ensemble skills.

A performance calendar will be finalized in September, to be distributed to all students and parents. While we make every effort to communicate these dates in advance, there are sometimes additional performance requests/changes to the existing schedule that are out of the control of the teacher.

3) Class Written Work and Quizzes 20%

A minimum of two playing tests (no including scales/rudiments tests) will be given each grading period, selected from music that has been rehearsed or etudes given in addition to the band music. Areas of focus include: posture, notes, rhythms, articulations, tempo, musical expression and tone quality. All playing tests will be announced at least a week in advance. Specific tests will either be done live (in-class) or through recording (audio or video format). Make-ups will be by appointment only. Any number of additional assignments may be given throughout the quarter. These assignments may include written

tests or quizzes, “pop” playing tests, pencil checks, prepared playing tests, etc. The point value of each assignment will be announced in class. With the exception of “pop” quizzes, all additional assignments will be announced at least 5 days in advance to allow the students adequate preparation time.

4. FINAL EXAM: 10%

The final exam consists of a written exam, which will assess student’s understanding of musical elements, as well as a performance component.

NOTE: For quarterly grades, the 10% attributed to the Final Exam will be included in the Classwork/Quiz section – raising it to 30%.

MVHS Grading Policy

Mt. Vernon High School has a consistent, school-wide policy stating that homework shall be no more than 10% of a student’s grade.

Mt. Vernon High School supports extra credit that is content-based only.

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	53-63	0.0

Late work

We expect that all students will complete all of their work one hundred percent of the time. Teachers expect students to complete and turn in assignments even if they are late. If work is late for any reason other than an excused absence, students have the opportunity to turn in late work for a half-letter grade or 3.33% deduction for each school day that it is late until the date set by the teacher prior to the end of the quarter or until the grade reaches 53% (F).

Late work interventions can include: After 2 assignments are missed in a bi-weekly period, the teacher will notify the parent via progress report, e-mail or phone call.

When a pattern of missed assignments is observed, the teacher will contact his administrator and/or counselor for further intervention.

Re-Take Policy

All students have the additional opportunity to show mastery of content through reassessments on the summative assessments given in each curricular area. In order for a reassessment to be provided, students are expected to complete all material related to the content of the unit as stipulated by the subject CLT. Additionally, students will need to demonstrate that they have completed all necessary preparation, including homework and classwork, to be successful on a reassessment. The teachers in the CLTs will determine the additional preparation needed, which may include content review during Major Time or after school, test corrections, etc., and will communicate this information to the students.

VIII. LETTERING IN BAND

Band students have the opportunity to earn an academic letter in music by earning 200 points. Points are reflective of various achievements, performances, and services outside of the normal classroom hours/assignments. All band students are expected to maintain a high standard of excellence within the program; varsity letters are an additional way of recognizing these standards. If a student has earned a letter previously, then achievement pins (added to the letter) are earned for each consecutive 100 points.

The following is a representative list of tasks through which band students may earn their letter. For every hour of service to the band department, a student may earn 2 points.

<u>ACTIVITY</u>	<u>POINTS</u>
Summer Marching Band rehearsals (complete)	20
Marching Band Participation	30
District Band Audition (December)	10
District Band Participation (Jan. or February)	30
Participation in MVHS Band per year	10
Section Leader of Marching Band	10
Student service volunteer for band (non-fundraising)	2 pts/hr.
Private lesson studies with qualified teacher	10
Solo/Ensemble Festival Participation	10
Participation in community ensembles (outside of MVHS)	10
Spring Trip (Band)	10
Tri-M Music Honor Society Membership (must be active) per year	10

IX. FCPS Marching Band Policy

Every student who is enrolled in an FCPS Intermediate Band course is encouraged to participate in the school's marching band. Since this is an optional course component, additional points towards their quarter grade may be earned by successful completion of all expectations and assessments. Since the marching band traditionally concludes its events when the football season is over, points cannot be earned after the "season" has ended; typically this would align with the end of the first quarterly marking period.

X. FIELD TRIPS/ENRICHMENT TRIPS

Field Trips designed to enhance the classroom experience may be scheduled during the school year. It is hoped that every student will take advantage of these offerings. Portions of the band program will take annual or biannual trips in performance/competition; it is expected that every student will participate.

Mount Vernon High School Bands
ADVANCED BAND SYLLABUS
2014-2015

Richard A. Bacz, Instructor
703-619-3163 (office)
RABacz@fcps.edu

I. OVERVIEW:

Advanced Band is reserved for students who show the technical proficiency, the ability of musical expression, and the commitment to musical growth as described in the FCPS Program of Study. As the most active and visible of the ensembles at Mount Vernon, acceptance to this level is both demanding and an honor. Students in this class are expected to be able to handle all advanced course requirements and additional time for rehearsals and performances. Every student in the program will experience a wide variety of musical experiences shaped by the selection of quality literature that will expand and develop each student's artistic awareness, technical mastery, and musicianship.

II. BLACKBOARD:

Mount Vernon High School uses the FCPS Blackboard system (24-7 Learning) for information and assignments regarding all classes. For detailed information, go to:

<http://fcps.blackboard.com/>

Additional calendar information and news items regarding the band organization may also be found on our Band Booster website:

<http://www.mvhsbandboosters.org>

III. OBJECTIVES:

- *The students will learn and be able to demonstrate the correct embouchure, playing position, hand position, breathing techniques, articulation, and stick control (percussion) as it relates to their instrument.
- *The student will develop a characteristic tone quality, and develop the skills necessary for intonation
- *The students will learn basic rhythm and tempo structure, and apply to their performance
- *The student will understand and interpret a variety of rhythms, tempo, and meter through the music studied.
- *The student will learn musicianship/interpretive skills necessary for development, such as dynamics, phrasing, etc.
- *The student will learn and demonstrate proper instrument care and handling.

IV. EQUIPMENT EXPECTATIONS

Students in this program are expected to have an instrument of quality in top working order.

- Students may either own their instrument, or secure one through a local store plan
- Students who perform on larger instruments that are not available through local store plans, may rent one from FCPS (fees are explained in section VIa)
- Any accessories necessary to perform on an instrument (reeds, sticks, etc) are the responsibility of the student. They may be purchased locally or online; MVHS does NOT supply or sell any accessories. Students must have these items for every class.

- Students must bring a 3 ring binder to class daily to hold music, handouts, etc..

Since each band class is ensemble in nature, the success of the class is determined by every student's preparation and participation daily. Each student is responsible and accountable for personal and ensemble growth. Students who have elected to enroll must uphold the standards and legacy of the Mount Vernon High School Band Program.

V. CLASSROOM RULES

1. Students are expected to be prompt to class. When entering the band area, all students should immediately be seated for attendance. After attendance and instructions, students will obtain their instrument from the locker.
2. As mentioned above, students are to be fully prepared for class on a daily basis.
3. Students will refrain from talking or extraneous noise during class. When a section or small group are being instructed, students not directly involved should study another music passage.
4. ABSOLUTELY NO FOOD OR DRINK IN THE MUSIC ROOMS. Bottled water may be allowed at the discretion of the Director of Bands.
5. ABSOLUTELY NO GUM CHEWING, for the protection of instruments, the facility, and also your top performance.
6. Students will clean and pack their instrument when asked to do so at the end of class, and wait in the band room until the dismissal bell.
7. Practice rooms are available for individual/small group study by permission of the music teachers. The same classroom behaviors apply. At no time may a room be occupied by students when a music teacher is unavailable for supervision.

Via. EXPENSES-INSTRUMENTS

As a music student, there are some expenses that occur by nature of the class. Every student must have an instrument, either by purchase or rental through private company or FCPS. FCPS does not have every instrument in inventory, nor do they stock instruments of Intermediate or Professional quality.

The following includes rental information for county-owned instruments:

Students using FCPS instruments will be assessed the following fee:

H.S. Wind Instruments: 46.00 per semester

H.S. Percussion Instruments: 26.00 per semester

H.S. Free & Reduced Lunch: 20.00 per school year for ALL instruments

H.S. Shared Instruments (1 instrument used by 2 students): half of the semester price.

note: (students who are asked to switch instruments during a school year from a privately owned instrument to an instrument owned by FCPS for daily performance will not be assessed a fee for that school year)

CHECKS FOR INSTRUMENT RENTALS ARE PAYABLE TO "Mount Vernon HS Band"
Payment is due before instrument can be obtained.

Vib. EXPENSES - MATERIALS FEE (all members): Students enrolled in a band class will incur a \$25.00 materials fee, used for consumable items for each student.

CHECKS FOR MATERIALS FEES ARE MADE OUT TO "Mount Vernon High School Band"
Payment is due by October 1, 2014.

NOTE: STUDENTS ON THE FREE/REDUCED LUNCH PLAN DO NOT PAY THIS FEE

Vlc. EXPENSES -UNIFORM

A concert uniform is required for all performances:

- GIRLS: Long Black Dress (provided by student) *must conform to program specifications and FCPS dress code policy
Black Dress shoes/hosiery (provided by student)
- BOYS: Tuxedo \$25.00 (provided by MVHS Band Boosters – 25.00 cleaning/usage fee)
Black dress shoes/hosiery (provided by student)
White wing-tipped shirt (provided by student)

Vld. FUNDRAISING

The Mount Vernon HS Band Boosters sponsor several fund raisers designed to assist students with uniform expenses. Participation is strictly voluntary; however, students are encouraged to utilize this effective means of reducing out-of-pocket expenses.

VII. GRADING

1) Ensemble Rehearsal Skills (40%)

Ensemble rehearsal skills replace the participation section of the grade. Students will be assessed informally on these mastery skills at every rehearsal. The grades from each grading period will be averaged and will be used as part of your audition for next year's bands. Ensemble rehearsal skills include:

- * Being at the right place at the right time when rehearsal is scheduled to begin.
- * Having music, pencils, instrument and necessary materials. Instruments must be in optimal condition with all needed supplies necessary to maintain the condition of your instrument. All needed accessories (mutes, mallets, etc) with you in place at the start of rehearsal.
- * Listening to and following all instructions and announcements. **No talking!**
- * Maintaining your attention on the rehearsal without being distracted.
- * Music prepared at home and ready to be rehearsed in class! (i.e., practice at home!)
- * Listening to and adjusting how you sound within the context of the ensemble (balance, blend, tuning, tone, etc)

After-School Rehearsals/Sectionals

All after-school rehearsals are mandatory, as they are used in preparation for upcoming performances. Students earn 50 points per rehearsal. Students unable to attend an after-school rehearsal must notify the director at least **48 hours in advance** of the absence.

2) Performance Grades (30%)

Performances include: concerts as scheduled, pep-rallies, community events, Adjudication Festivals, District Band auditions, Solo & Ensemble Festival. All performances are considered assessments of mastery; unfortunately, there are few options to replicate mastery of ensemble skills. Students who miss a performance that is deemed excused by the Director will be given an alternative assignment (usually a solo performance live or video)

recorded) in an effort to help the student display mastery of individual components that relate to ensemble skills.

A performance calendar will be finalized in September, to be distributed to all students and parents. While we make every effort to communicate these dates in advance, there are sometimes additional performance requests/changes to the existing schedule that are out of the control of the teacher.

3) Class Written Work, Assessments, and Quizzes 20%

A minimum of two playing tests (no including scales/rudiments tests) will be given each grading period, selected from music that has been rehearsed or etudes given in addition to the band music. Areas of focus include: posture, notes, rhythms, articulations, tempo, musical expression and tone quality. All playing tests will be announced at least a week in advance. Specific tests will either be done live (in-class) or through recording (audio or video format). Make-ups will be by appointment only.

Any number of additional assignments may be given throughout the quarter. These assignments may include written tests or quizzes, “pop” playing tests, pencil checks, prepared playing tests, etc. The point value of each assignment will be announced in class. With the exception of “pop” quizzes, all additional assignments will be announced at least 5 days in advance to allow the students adequate preparation time.

4) FINAL EXAM: 10%

The final exam consists of a written exam, which will assess student’s understanding of musical elements, as well as a performance component. *For quarterly grades, the 10% attributed to the Final Exam will be included in the Classwork/Quiz section – raising it to 30%.*

MVHS Grading Policy

Mt. Vernon High School has a consistent, school-wide policy stating that homework shall be no more than 10% of a student's grade.

Mt. Vernon High School supports extra credit that is content-based only.

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	53-63	0.0

Late work

We expect that all students will complete all of their work one hundred percent of the time. Teachers expect students to complete and turn in assignments even if they are late. If work is late for any reason other than an excused absence, students have the opportunity to turn in late work for a half-letter grade or 3.33% deduction for each school day that it is late until the date set by the teacher prior to the end of the quarter or until the grade reaches 53% (F).

Late work interventions can include: After 2 assignments are missed in a bi-weekly period, the teacher will notify the parent via progress report, e-mail or phone call.

When a pattern of missed assignments is observed, the teacher will contact his administrator and/or counselor for further intervention.

Re-Take Policy

All students have the additional opportunity to show mastery of content through reassessments on the summative assessments given in each curricular area. In order for a reassessment to be provided, students are expected to complete all material related to the content of the unit as stipulated by the subject CLT. Additionally, students will need to demonstrate that they have completed all necessary preparation, including homework and classwork, to be successful on a reassessment. The teachers in the CLTs will determine the additional preparation needed, which may include content review during Major Time or after school, test corrections, etc., and will communicate this information to the students.

VIII. LETTERING IN BAND

Band students have the opportunity to earn an academic letter in music by earning 200 points. Points are reflective of various achievements, performances, and services outside of the normal classroom hours/assignments. Letter points do not carry over from year to year, but students are awarded extra points for consecutive years of participation.

All band students are expected to maintain a high standard of excellence within the program; varsity letters are an additional way of recognizing these standards. If a student

has earned a letter previously, then achievement pins (added to the letter) are earned for each consecutive 100 points.

The following is a representative list of tasks through which band students may earn their letter. For every hour of service to the band department, a student may earn 2 points.

<u>ACTIVITY</u>	<u>POINTS</u>
Summer Marching Band rehearsals (complete)	20
Marching Band Participation	30
District Band Audition (December)	10
District Band Participation (Jan. or February)	30
Participation in MVHS Band per year	10
Section Leader of Marching Band	10
Student service volunteer for band (non-fundraising)	2 pts/hr.
Private lesson studies with qualified teacher	10
Solo/Ensemble Festival Participation	10
Participation in community ensembles (outside of MVHS)	10
Spring Trip (Band)	10
Tri-M Music Honor Society Membership (must be active) per year	10

IX. FCPS Marching Band Policy

Every student who is enrolled in an FCPS Advanced Band course is required to participate in the school's marching band. Students enrolled in the other class levels have the option of marching; however, all students are encouraged to participate to reap the benefits and skill development that are a result of participation in the marching band.

X. FIELD TRIPS/ENRICHMENT TRIPS

Field Trips designed to enhance the classroom experience may be scheduled during the school year. It is hoped that every student will take advantage of these offerings. Portions of the band program will take annual or biannual trips in performance/competition; it is expected that every student will participate.

Guitar is one of the most versatile musical instruments in the world – almost any musical style or genre can be performed on this instrument. Playing guitar is a personal endeavor that the student is about to begin. As with any skill, students are going to develop at different rates. This is taken into account in the grading process.

Varying skill sets can be developed through study of the instrument:

- Performance skills in many styles
- Literacy in music notation, both on the staff and in tablature
- Analysis of music to better understand how it is constructed, and
- Appreciation of music as an influence in culture

Students in guitar class will:

- Develop skills related to performance technique
- Develop music literacy in note and rhythmic reading
- Develop an appreciation for music in culture through listening and analysis various guitar styles

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Based on National Music Content Standards:

- Standards #1-2 Students will learn to read, and play with correct left hand positioning for first position. Note reading will include staff and tablature notation.
Strumming, flat picking, and classical styles will be included.
Ensemble performance in class will take place at least once a quarter
- Standard #3 Students will learn to improvise melodies, variations and accompaniments
12-Bar Blues, Chord Progressions, Finger-style and Bass-strum
- Standard #5 Students will learn to read and notate music.
Music notation, chord frames, moveable chords and scale patterns
- Standards #6-7 Students will listen to, analyze, describe and evaluate music.
Listening days, Listening evaluations
- Standards #8-9 Students will understand music in relation to other disciplines, and in relation to history and culture. *Different genres and styles of music (folk, rock, classical, blues, jazz, flamenco), current events and the history of guitar*

Generally, the student will demonstrate the ability to:

- *Recognize and interpret the various melodic and chordal notation systems such as staff notation, chord grids and symbols, and tablature*
- *Utilize different right hand styles in playing and accompanying a song, including:*
 - *Finger picking, and strumming*
 - *Flat picking and strumming*

- Assume correct posture to perform the various styles of guitar literature, and various styles of guitars.
- Play with traditionally correct left hand finger positions
- Play, with acceptable quality, pieces of beginning and intermediate difficulty
- Accompany a melodic line either sung or played on the guitar
- Play, with acceptable quality, various scales and chords using correct finger positions
- Sight read, with minimum error, an accompaniment and a melody of beginning rhythms and melodic difficulty
- Respond to directions in rehearsals and performance
- Perform with acceptable quality as a soloist or in an ensemble
- Tune the guitar with an acceptable degree of accuracy to a given or fixed pitch
- Recognize and begin to perform the various types of guitar literature
- Demonstrate the ability the ability to restring a guitar as necessary

TOPICS

First nine weeks: first position fingering and technique on strings 1-3, basic chords will include C, G7, D7, and Am.

Second nine weeks: first position fingering and technique on string 4-6, adding discussions of key signatures and beginning to practice and perform major scales

Third nine weeks: Add more advanced and related chords such as D, Dm, A7

Fourth nine weeks: Barre chords, major scales, key signatures, ensemble work and composition

MATERIALS

Students will need to provide:

- Pencil for every class (for marking music)
- 1" binder for music papers and note taking (students will get many handouts)
- Guitar with case, brought every day (please bring them to the storage area so they can be secured before first block. Since MVHS lacks lockers to hold guitars, personal guitars should not be left overnight, as their safety cannot be guaranteed.
(MVHS has a limited supply of school owned guitars, available for rental)

Students will be provided with

- Textbook – “The Hal Leonard Guitar Method” book which includes three books in one with practice C.D.s for each book. These are school textbooks and will require replacement if they are damaged beyond reasonable use.
- Handouts to help with the learning process
- Manuscript/tablature paper

MVHS Grading Policy

Mt. Vernon High School has a consistent, school-wide policy stating that homework shall be no more than 10% of a student's grade.

Mt. Vernon High School supports extra credit that is content-based only.

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	53-63	0.0

Late work

We expect that all students will complete all of their work one hundred percent of the time. Teachers expect students to complete and turn in assignments even if they are late. If work is late for any reason other than an excused absence, students have the opportunity to turn in late work for a half-letter grade or 3.33% deduction for each school day that it is late until the date set by the teacher prior to the end of the quarter or until the grade reaches 53% (F).

Late work interventions can include: After 2 assignments are missed in a bi-weekly period, the teacher will notify the parent via progress report, e-mail or phone call.

When a pattern of missed assignments is observed, the teacher will contact his administrator and/or counselor for further intervention.

Re-Take Policy

All students have the additional opportunity to show mastery of content through reassessments on the summative assessments given in each curricular area. In order for a reassessment to be provided, students are expected to complete all material related to the content of the unit as stipulated by the subject CLT. Additionally, students will need to demonstrate that they have completed all necessary preparation, including homework and classwork, to be successful on a reassessment. The teachers in the CLTs will determine the additional preparation needed, which may include content review during Major Time or after school, test corrections, etc., and will communicate this information to the students.

STUDENT FEES

County Regulation FCPS 5922 states that guitar students be charged \$28/year for fees. These fees will cover a small tuner, and 1 set of replacement strings. This money can be paid by check made out to MVHS – guitar, or cash. Fees are due by September 21, 2014. Students on free/reduced lunch will have these fees covered by FCPS.

Guitar is one of the most versatile musical instruments in the world – almost any musical style or genre can be performed on this instrument. Playing guitar is a personal endeavor that the student is about to begin. As with any skill, students are going to develop at different rates. This is taken into account in the grading process.

Varying skill sets can be developed through study of the instrument:

- Performance skills in many styles
- Literacy in music notation, both on the staff and in tablature
- Analysis of music to better understand how it is constructed, and
- Appreciation of music as an influence in culture

Students in guitar class will:

- Develop skills related to solo and ensemble performance technique
- Develop music literacy in note and rhythmic reading
- Develop an appreciation for music in culture through listening and analysis various guitar styles

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Based on National Music Content Standards:

- Standards #1-2 Students will learn to read, and play with correct left hand positioning for first position. Note reading will include staff and tablature notation. Strumming, flat picking, and classical styles will be included. Ensemble performance in class will take place at least once a quarter
- Standard #3 Students will learn to improvise melodies, variations and accompaniments
12-Bar Blues, Chord Progressions, Finger-style and Bass-strum
- Standard #5 Students will learn to read and notate music.
Music notation, chord frames, moveable chords and scale patterns
- Standards #6-7 Students will listen to, analyze, describe and evaluate music.
Listening days, Listening evaluations
- Standards #8-9 Students will understand music in relation to other disciplines, and in relation to history and culture. Different genres and styles of music (folk, rock, classical, blues, jazz, flamenco), current events and the history of guitar

Generally, the student will demonstrate the ability to:

- Recognize and interpret the various melodic and chordal notation systems such as staff notation, chord grids and symbols, and tablature
- Utilize different right hand styles in playing and accompanying a song, including:
 - Finger picking, and strumming
 - Flat picking and strumming
- Assume correct posture to perform the various styles of guitar literature, and various styles of guitars.
- Play with traditionally correct left hand finger positions
- Play, with acceptable quality, pieces of intermediate and advanced difficulty
- Accompany a melodic line either sung or played on the guitar

- Play, with acceptable quality, various scales and chords using correct finger positions
- Sight read, with minimum error, an accompaniment and a melody of beginning rhythms and melodic difficulty
- Respond to directions in rehearsals and performance
- Perform with acceptable quality as a soloist or in an ensemble
- Tune the guitar with an acceptable degree of accuracy to a given or fixed pitch
- Recognize and begin to perform the various types of guitar literature
- Demonstrate the ability the ability to restring a guitar as necessary
- Demonstrate an acceptable knowledge of music theory and note reading and TAB

TOPICS

First nine weeks: review first position fingering and technique, and basic chords. Students will discussions of key signatures and demonstrate a knowledge of how to read and perform major scales.

Second nine weeks: Barre chords, major scales, key signatures, ensemble work and composition; power chords; second position

Third nine weeks: Small ensemble technique – small groups will perform in February.

Fourth nine weeks: third, fourth and fifth positions up the neck of the guitar and smaller ensemble work.

MATERIALS

Students will need to provide:

- Pencil
- 1" binder for music papers and note taking
- English Composition book
- One listening selection of their choice, based on a specific style of music, every week they have class on Friday
- Guitar with case. We cannot take responsibility for personal guitars that are left overnight. Please make sure you have a way of transporting the guitar to and from school.
(Students who are unable to secure a guitar for class may rent one through MVHS)

Students will be provided with:

- Textbook – “The Hal Leonard Guitar Method” book which includes three books in one with practice C.D.s for each book. These are school textbooks and will require replacement if they are damaged beyond reasonable use.
- Handouts to help with the learning process
- Manuscript/tablature paper

GRADING POLICY

Class Participation – Daily Assessment = 40%

- Conduct – causing no unnecessary disturbances, playing only when directed to do so
- Attention – following instructions, and listening (talking is NOT a guitar skill)
- Attitude – keeping an open mind in regards to music presented
- Posture – sitting up, holding the guitar properly for correct intonation and learning
- Care of the instrument – this includes remembering to bring it to school on even days. (No “loaner” instruments are available so students will have an alternative writing assignment if they can not play. If this behavior becomes habitual, the student's parent will be informed.)
- Preparation – Notebooks are required. Written warm-ups will be part of the daily routine and will be graded.
- A written final exam will be given and may be counted as much as 10% of the final grade in the class

Written Warm-ups and Listening Assignments = 10%

Performance Assessments – Solo/Ensemble/Concert= 40%

Tests will be written and/or performance based. Student performance will be evaluated using the following criteria:

- Rhythm – students will be expected to demonstrate an awareness of pulse and an understanding of simple rhythmic values and patterns.
- Notation – students will be expected to demonstrate an understanding of the symbol system used in guitar literature:
 - Staff Notation
 - Tablature
 - Chord Diagrams
- All performances are considered assessments of mastery; unfortunately, there are few options to replicate mastery of ensemble skills. Students who miss a performance that is deemed excused by the Director will be given an alternative assignment (usually a solo performance live or video recorded) in an effort to help the student display mastery of individual components that relate to ensemble skills.
- A performance calendar will be finalized in September, to be distributed to all students and parents. While we make every effort to communicate these dates in advance, there are sometimes additional performance requests/changes to the existing schedule that are out of the control of the teacher.

Final Exam – written/performance = 10%

MVHS Grading Policy

Mt. Vernon High School has a consistent, school-wide policy stating that homework shall be no more than 10% of a student's grade.

Mt. Vernon High School supports extra credit that is content-based only.

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	53-63	0.0

Late work

We expect that all students will complete all of their work one hundred percent of the time. Teachers expect students to complete and turn in assignments even if they are late. If work is late for any reason other than an excused absence, students have the opportunity to turn in late work for a half-letter grade or 3.33% deduction for each school day that it is late until the date set by the teacher prior to the end of the quarter or until the grade reaches 53% (F).

Late work interventions can include: After 2 assignments are missed in a bi-weekly period, the teacher will notify the parent via progress report, e-mail or phone call.

When a pattern of missed assignments is observed, the teacher will contact his administrator and/or counselor for further intervention.

Re-Take Policy

All students have the additional opportunity to show mastery of content through reassessments on the summative assessments given in each curricular area. In order for a reassessment to be provided, students are expected to complete all material related to the content of the unit as stipulated by the subject CLT. Additionally, students will need to demonstrate that they have completed all necessary preparation, including homework and classwork, to be successful on a reassessment. The teachers in the CLTs will determine the additional preparation needed, which may include content review during Major Time or after school, test corrections, etc., and will communicate this information to the students.

STUDENT FEES

County Regulation FCPS 5922 states that guitar students be charged \$28/year for fees. These fees will cover a small tuner, and 1 set of replacement strings. This money can be paid by check made out to MVHS – guitar, or cash. Fees are due by September 21, 2014. Students on free/reduced lunch will have these fees covered by FCPS.