# Morningside High School

### Monarch Band (Advanced & Intermediate)

## Handbook & Syllabus 2017-18

Mr. Lackey Room G-3

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# Introduction

Welcome to advanced band and intermediate band (which, when combined, form the Monarch Marching Band)! In this class you will continue your journey into the wonderful world of playing a musical instrument, building and expanding on skills you've learned over your last few years of playing. Over the course of the year you will improve your playing, your reading, and even get the chance to create music of your own. You'll also get a chance to perform several times for family, friends, and fellow students, and even to compete against other high schools as the Monarch Band becomes one of the main public faces of Morningside High School. Along the way, you'll acquire the skills that will prepare you for a great future in music, both here and beyond.

In the following pages you, the students and parents, will find information about the coming year, including how to contact me, grading and behavior policies, a mostly complete calendar of student and parent events, dress codes, and instrument policies. Full information on obtaining and using instruments will be provided in a separate handout.

#### Contacting Mr. Lackey

I'm always available to answer any questions you might have, or to provide tutoring, extra assistance, or accelerated studies (see open door policy below). You can reach me via...

**phone:** (310)680-5230 x7213, ask for Mr. Lackey or for Room G-3 **cell phone:** (626)536-6801 **email**: BLackey@inglewood.k12.ca.us

I will check my email several times a day and make every effort to respond as soon as possible. I do ask for some understanding around concert time, and in the first few hectic weeks of my time at Morningside. I am available essentially 24 hours a day on my cell phone, and I encourage parents and students to call with questions or concerns.

### When Is The Band Room Open? When Can I Practice? When Can I Get Help?

Good question! As a general rule, if I'm on campus, and in the band room, then the room is open and I'd love to see you!...subject to a few limitations (staff meetings and such). The band room will be generally be open no later than **7:45am** every day, and it will be open for an hour after school every day unless there is a staff meeting (usually on Tuesdays). I am available to arrive earlier or stay later by appointment.

PLEASE NOTE: While you are always welcome in the room, if you choose (or are required) to stay after school, it is YOUR SOLE RESPONSIBILITY to arrange transportation home.

#### Open Door Policy

I'm here for one main purpose: to help YOU. To that end, I maintain a complete "open door" policy. If you have any questions or concerns at all, if you want to get ahead, if you want to know why I'm having you do something, or if you just want to say hello, PLEASE do so. Yes, I am the teacher, but I work for you, and if I'm not helping you have a good experience and become a better player, I need to know immediately.

#### Parent Form

Students and parents please sign the form at the end of this syllabus and return it to me. Returning the form is a graded assignment. Thank you so much for joining band this year!

### **Grading, Behavior, & Attendance Policies**

**Grading Policy** 

The primary objective of this course is for you to learn and enjoy playing music, but since this is a class, a grade must be earned. Grading policy is as follows:

✓ 50% concert attendance-attendance at all performances is REQUIRED, and you must attend the concerts each semester to receive a grade of "C" or higher. This portion of your grade includes all concerts, after school rehearsals for concerts, competitive events, traveling performances, sectionals, and weekly after school practices. Unlike other classes, the success of each student depends on the success of the other students. Everyone else is counting on you!

*Sectionals:* All advanced and intermediate band members are REQUIRED to attend sectionals once per week outside of class time. These may be at lunch or after school; your section leader will coordinate with you. *These last the entire year*.

*After school rehearsals:* all advanced and intermediate band members are REQUIRED to attend after school rehearsals every Monday and Wednesday from 3-5pm from Wednesday, August 31 until Wednesday, December 14. Band members are expected to attend the ENTIRE rehearsals each day, each week.

*Excusals from performances:* Excusals from performances, sectionals, and after school rehearsals are granted on a limited, case by case basis ONLY for serious emergency, illness, or other severely extenuating circumstance. A funeral is an example of acceptable reason for missing a performance; a birthday party, quincenera practice, or "I forgot" is **not**. You have the calendar several months in advance, and as the returning musicians you are expected to set the example for the beginning band members and the junior high musicians that will become part of you. PLAN ACCORDINGLY.

*Tardy/Early leaving policy:* Any student that arrives late to or leaves early from any performance, sectional, or after school rehearsal, or leaves early will receive half (50%) credit for that event in their grade. The only exceptions to this are serious emergency or extenuating circumstance arranged in advance with the director. Such exemptions will be granted on a limited, case by case basis. You are given the calendar of events very far in advance, and it is your responsibility to plan accordingly. Punctuality and commitment to the entire event are VITAL parts of being professional.

- ✓ 25% tests and large projects-These will include playing tests, written tests, and research projects given throughout the year. You will be tested frequently this year. PRACTICE AT HOME EVERY DAY.
- ✓ 15% homework and practice logs-This portion of your grade will include most of your writing assignments, including listening assignments, as well as as any parent contact letters and any other homework assignments. At this point in your development you know that if you want to get better at anything (video games, sports, cooking, or math, just to name a few), you have to get out there and do whatever it is you want to be good at. Music is no exception. If you want to play well, if you want to have the most fun possible, you'll have to put in the time with your instrument. Every instrument is expected to go home and return every band day. No exceptions.
- ✓ 10% participation and subjective measure-In any group, or band, or class, how well you play is only part of the total picture. Part of your grade is based on attitude, effort, and improvement over the course of the year.

### Classroom & Behavior Expectations

Band is one of the most fun classes you will ever be in. There's music, traveling, all of your fellow students together...however, it's also both a class, and preparation for the real world of professional music. As such, you are expected to uphold certain standards of conduct at all times.

Unlike other instructors you may have, I don't have a long list of rules and penalties. You are high school students, you are on the verge of being adults, and you've had nine (or more) years of school experience, along with previous experience in band. You know how to act.

Here are my 4 rules:

- 1. *Be respectful of the band room and all of the equipment in it.* The band room is here for your use, but it must be taken care of at all times. This room is filled with a LOT of very expensive, very fragile equipment that we don't necessarily have the money to replace, and YOU (and your parents) WILL be held accountable for anything that you break. You'll find that a band room can become a very special place...or a complete mess. Make sure it becomes a special place.
- 2. *Be respectful of your fellow students (or in other words, play nice).* Everyone learns at their own pace, and you have a lot more to gain by learning from each other rather than by putting each other down. Besides, the people you see next to you now are many of the same people you will be seeing throughout the ENTIRETY of your musical life. Keep that in mind before you get too mean spirited.
- 3. *Always do your best.* Some things are going to be easy in this class, and some things are going to be difficult. I promise you if you give your best effort, the things that are hard won't be hard for very long, and you'll be amazed at what you're capable of.
- 4. *Or, to summarize, be professional.* You'll hear me say this a lot over the course of your years with me. You are musicians, and you are professional musicians, who always do their best, and who are always prepared, and always up for any challenge in front of them. Act professional, and you'll be professional-and you'll be part of a great band.

Consequences for violating these policies will range from in-class punishments (sentences, temporary loss of playing privileges, trash cleanup, etc.) for minor offenses to detention, parent phone calls, and even severe grade consequences or removal from band for serious offenses (such as fighting, cheating, missing a required performance without a serious and proper excuse, etc.). More detailed instructions on policies and procedures may be provided as needed.

### Cell Phone & Electronic Devices Policy

Per Education Code and school rules, cell phones and other electronics are NOT allowed to be used in class. This does not mean a quick glance to check the time, that does not mean texting your friend to bring you something, that means DO NOT HAVE THEM OUT. In a real world setting, checking one's phone at a concert or rehearsal would generally be considered very unprofessional.

### ANY PHONE THAT IS OUT MAY BE SEIZED IMMEDIATELY AND TURNED INTO THE OFFICE, AT MY SOLE DISCRETION. Failure to comply may result in removal from band.

There are three, and only three exceptions to this policy:

- During an in class break
- If I ask you to use your phones for a project or assignments. This generally includes tuning during warmups.
- If there is a legitimate family emergency that requires you being available. If this is the case you must inform me **before** the bell the rings and I will grant exemptions on a case by case basis.

## **Dress Codes**

As professional musicians, it's important that we dress appropriate to the performance situation. Home football games, parades, and certain other public events will require marching uniforms, which will be checked out to each individual student. For other events, the dress code is as follows:

### Concert Dress

This is the dress code for all concerts and most indoor events at Morningside, including Honor Roll assemblies and Graduation. For those of you who have been in band previously, it is unchanged from previous years.

### FOR THE GENTLEMEN:

- white, LONG SLEEVE, button down dress shirt
- neck tie (NOT bow tie or bolo tie)
- BLACK dress slacks
- belt
- BLACK dress shoes (NOT tennis shoes)
- black socks

### FOR THE LADIES:

Ladies have a bit more discretion as to attire, with the general of being semi-formal, and being professional. They should either wear white tops and black bottoms, or all black, such as

- black concert dress
- black pantsuit
- black skirt (below the knee)/white blouse
- etc.

Women may, at their discretion, also wear the same attire as the gentlemen.

Please no garments that are low cut, above the knee, or other inappropriate in a concert setting.

Shoes should be BLACK dress shoes, and I recommend against wearing heels due to safety concerts. I also recommend (though I will not require) against wearing makeup, as it has a tendency to get on and in the instruments.

### Home Football Games & Marching Competitions

Home football games and marching competitions, unless otherwise specified, will require marching uniforms. Uniforms will be checked out to each student individually early in the school year and returned after each performance. Marching shoes and gloves must be purchased by students (financial assistance is available if necessary); I will have additional information in a separate form.

One caveat: we have a sufficient number of uniforms, but unfortunately we have a shortage of the most extreme large and small sizes. For those students, please wear black slacks, a band shirt, and marching shoes and gloves for these performances.

### Away Football Games, Basketball Games, and other sporting events

For other sporting event performances, wear a band t-shirt and clean, unripped jeans or slacks. If you do not have a band t-shirt, please wear a solid black or red t-shirt, or a shirt with the Morningside logo on it.

## **Instrument Policies**

Our school instrument situation has improved, but it is still not perfect. Any instruments the school has are available for student use on a need based, first come, first serve basis. No student will be turned away from band for financial need, however especially as Advanced Band students, families are requested to provide instruments and/or supplies if at all possible. School instruments are a backup plan, or for instruments that are not easily rentable (such as tubas), not a primary option. Every instrument that can be provided by families is one more instrument available for a student that truly needs it.

The one exception to this policy is percussion. Because professional percussionists must play all of the percussion instruments, and because I can't easily let you take drums home, all percussionists MUST rent or purchase a bell kit (not a drumset, not a practice pad, not a snare drum, but a bell kit) and purchase the following sticks and materials by October 2, 2017:

•snare sticks, marching size

- •snare sticks, concert size, such as Vic Firth SD1 (the drum sticks that come with most bell kits also fulfill this requirement)
- •hard rubber mallets, such as Vic Firth M131 (the mallets that come with most bell kits fulfill this requirement)

•yarn mallets

•timpani mallets

•stick bag; a small drawstring pouch is fine, however I recommend a proper stick bag if possible

Any percussionist that does not have their materials by this time will be provided with a (non-percussion) school instrument and may be transferred to beginning band, at my discretion, until they achieve appropriate competence on their new instrument.

The sticks and mallets may be purchased separately, however both Vic Firth and Innovative Percussion offer Intermediate Stick Packs for sale that contain everything I ask for, including the stick bag, except for marching sticks. You may wish to consider purchasing these kits at a local music store or online.

# Calendar

These pages include the calendar of both student performances and parent meetings. Please note that attendance at all performances and rehearsals are mandatory and represent a significant portion of your student's grade in the course.

<u>Performances and rehearsals</u> (some of these dates, especially for competitions, are subject to change) August 7, 8, 14, 17, 18, 9am-4pm-Band Camp August 8, 5pm-performance for freshman/sophomore orientation Friday, September 8, 5pm-home football game Monday & Wednesday, September 6-December 13 3-5pm-after school rehearsal Friday, September 15, 5pm-home football game Friday, September 22, 4:30pm-away football game Friday, October 6, 4:30pm-away football game Saturday, October 7, 7:30am-San Dimas Western Days parade Friday, October 13, 5pm-home football game Saturday, October 14, 8am-field show 1 Friday, October 20, 5pm-home football game Friday, October 27, 4:30pm-away football game Thursday, November 2, 3pm-JV football game Friday, November 3, 4:30pm-away football game Saturday, November 4, 8am-field show 2 Saturday, November 11, 8am-field show 3 **December TBD-**Flute Christmas Friday, December 8, Monday December 11, Wednesday December 13, 3-5pm-rehearsals for winter concert Thursday, December 14, 4:30pm-Winter Concert Monday, January 15, 8:30am-Martin Luther King Jr. parade January/February-varsity basketball games tbd late January tbd, 5:30pm-Honor Roll Assembly March/February tbd-concert band festival February tbd 6pm-district concert (tentative) Friday, March 16, Monday, March 19, Wednesday, March 21, 3-5pm-rehearsals for spring concert Thursday, March 22, 4:30pm-spring concert early May TBD-recruiting tour May TBD, after school-softball game Friday, May 18, Monday, May 21, Wednesday, May 23, 3-5pm-rehearsals for spring concert Thursday, May 24, 4:30pm-end of year concert late May/early June tbd, 5:30pm-Senior Awards Night Friday, June 1, 6pm-Music Awards Night Wednesday, June 6, time tbd-graduation

#### **Booster Club/Parent Meetings**

The Morningside Music Boosters is our official parent group, and they meet regularly to assist with fundraising, staffing at concerts, and planning music program events. This year meetings will alternate between Tuesday evenings at 6:30pm and Saturday afternoons at 1pm, unless there is a competition that day. **Tuesday meetings will be in the band room** while Saturday meetings will be at the **Starbucks at the Target shopping center** (3351 W Century Blvd, Inglewood-the self contained Starbucks, NOT the Starbucks inside Target) at **1pm**. The booster meeting schedule through December is as follows-

Tuesday, August 29 Saturday, September 16 Tuesday, September 26 Tuesday, October 10 Saturday, October 28 Tuesday, November 7 Saturday, December 1 Saturday, December 9 Tuesday, December 12

Any changes to these schedules will be provided as soon as they are known-new performance opportunities arise throughout the year. The parent meeting schedule for January through the end of the school year will be provided after will return from winter break.

### ~Advanced Band & Intermediate Band Syllabus Parent Form~

We have read the course syllabus, and understand and accept the grading and behavior policies of Advanced Band. We further understand that if the student damages any equipment in the band room, they will be responsible for the full cost of replacement or repair, at the discretion of school staff.

| Student Name               | Signature Of Student           | Date |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|------|
| Instrument                 |                                | -    |
| Parent/Guardian Nam        | e Signature Of Parent/Guardian | Date |
| Phone numbers              |                                |      |
| email addresses<br>(email) |                                |      |
|                            |                                |      |