

## MCHS Instrumental Music - Bands 2009 Registration Guide

Dear Incoming 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Students and Parents,

As the Counseling Department at Mira Costa prepares to shift into high gear next month for a new year of registration, we in the Music Department are also working to help ease your way into High School. We are so excited to have you join us in music at MCHS, and I am greatly looking forward to getting to know all of you! I have put together this document to help with your registration for music classes and ensembles when you go in for your counseling appointment early next month.

One of the immediate benefits of being a 9<sup>th</sup> grader in a music ensemble at Mira Costa (especially the Marching Band!) is that you get to meet and rehearse together with some of the finest students at our school. These young men and women have already been where you are going and are happy to help you get acquainted with life on the high school campus. By that same token, if you have any further questions about registration for music, or need assistance with anything else at MCHS, please feel free to contact me at [jcarlson@mbusd.org](mailto:jcarlson@mbusd.org), or 310.318.7337, ext. 5238.

Once you have reviewed the attached Registration Guide and decided on your schedule of classes for next year, please return the bottom portion of this letter to Mrs. Haslop, or to the front desk of the Mira Costa office to help us plan better for the upcoming year. Finally, one of the great new resources now at your fingertips is our website, [www.miracostabands.com](http://www.miracostabands.com). Make sure to check back regularly, as updates on registration, auditions, informational events and more will be posted there in the weeks and months to come. See you all soon!

Joel Carlson  
Instrumental Music Teacher  
Mira Costa High School  
Manhattan Beach, CA

(Please detach along line and return by **Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup>**)

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Student's Name	Instrument(s)	Middle School
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**I have signed up for the following ensembles and classes (please circle all that apply):**

Marching Band-PE      Concert Band      Music Theory      Music Appreciation

**I am also interested in the following ensembles and classes (please circle all that apply):**

Symphonic Band/Wind Ensemble      Jazz Band      AP Music Theory

## MCHS INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC - BANDS 2009 REGISTRATION GUIDE

- Instrumental Music for the bands at Mira Costa is centered around our four ensembles that meet during the school day:

Concert Band

Symphonic Band

Wind Ensemble

Jazz Band

- As a member of one of these concert ensembles, students also have the opportunity to get their **full PE credit** through:

The Mira Costa Marching Band and Colorguard

- Marching Band rehearsals start during the summer so that we may be prepared for our first performance shortly after school starts (please see [www.miracostabands.com](http://www.miracostabands.com) for dates & details). Once school starts, the Marching Band rehearses a few days a week after school, and continues to rehearse until our last competition in November.
- The greater majority of the students in the bands at Mira Costa are also members of the Marching Band. Not only does membership in the Marching Band help you get acclimated to Mira Costa long before the first day of classes, and introduce you to over a hundred new friends right away, but colleges love to see it on your resume (especially 4 years of it)!
- We **highly** recommend that every freshman join the Marching Band their first year as it is by far the best time to try it out!
- Audition packets will be distributed in late April and placements auditions for all students take place in late May/early June. In the mean time, in order to hold a spot in the department, we ask all students currently at Mira Costa to sign up for the ensemble they are presently in, and all incoming freshmen to sign up for PE-Marching Band/Concert Band. Once all placement auditions have finished, ensemble rosters will be adjusted by the MCHS administrators and counselors to reflect the results.

(over)

- Signing up for PE-Marching Band will enroll you in the Concert Band period as your concert ensemble, and will give you the full consecutive year of PE credit you need as a 9<sup>th</sup> grader according to California law. The Concert Band is an exceptional ensemble, having been recognized by the SCSBOA with Superior ratings at festivals, playing some challenging literature. Through the placement audition process, all students will be additionally be considered for the Symphonic Band and the Wind Ensemble. If you know that you are also interested in either these ensembles, or the Jazz Band (information on Jazz auditions is forthcoming), you may want to keep in mind that you will need an additional period open if you are placed in one of these groups, since PE-Marching Band/Concert Band is essentially talking the place of a general PE course that you would have during the day.
- If you already know that you are interested in one of these additional ensembles, you should still sign up only for PE-Marching Band only, and indicate your interest on the tear off slip in the front of this packet.
- If you are going to be just too busy in the fall to be able to be in Marching Band (check with Mr. Carlson first, as some things that you think will be a conflict actually might not be!), you can still be in music! Instead of enrolling in PE-Marching Band, you should enroll in Concert Band 1-2. This will secure you a spot in the department, and get your name on the rosters for when it comes time to make adjustments.
- Additional open enrollment music courses offered at Mira Costa are:

Music Appreciation

Music Theory

- For those more advanced in their Music Theory, Mira Costa also offers an AP Music Theory Course. This course is equivalent to a first-year college music theory course and is not easy, though we have had a number of freshmen who have had great success none the less. Be sure to check with Mr. Carlson before attempting to add AP Music Theory to your schedule, but please indicate your interest on the tear off slip.
- Finally, remember to call or e-mail Mr. Carlson if you have any more questions. Have fun at registration!