

# **MONTGOMERY BLAIR HIGH SCHOOL INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC HANDBOOK**

**2015-2016**

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## I. Introduction

### Welcome to the Montgomery Blair High School Instrumental Music Department

This handbook is designed to provide students and parents/guardians with the rules, policies and procedures essential for the smooth and efficient operation of the Instrumental Music Department. Additional information is also provided about course offerings, county and state honors ensembles, extracurricular opportunities, private lessons, practicing, and more.

Each student and parent/guardian is responsible for thoroughly understanding the contents of this handbook and should refer to it frequently throughout the school year. **The final page of this handbook MUST be completed, signed and returned to the Directors during the first week of school.** An electronic version of this document is posted on the music website: [www.finearts.mbhs.edu](http://www.finearts.mbhs.edu).

A **Calendar of Events** is provided separately to all students on the first day of classes, to parents/guardians at Back to School Night, and is posted on the music website: <http://finearts.mbhs.edu>. Please be sure to mark these important dates on home calendars.

## II. Goals

1. To provide a setting in which students can learn about music and gain technical proficiency of their instruments through performance.
2. To help students develop creativity, self-discipline, character, and leadership.
3. To help students relate music to the world around them.
4. To help students develop a lifelong appreciation of music that continues after their formal education has been completed.
5. To provide fundamental understandings and develop advanced skills for all students, including those interested in pursuing a career in music.



### III. Instrumental Music Classes

- A. Symphonic Band (*Entrance by audition/Director approval*)** – This advanced class is the select ensemble for brass, woodwind, and percussion musicians. The ensemble will perform at concerts throughout the year and be adjudicated at County/State festivals. Brass, woodwind and percussion students from Symphonic Band may join the Symphonic Orchestra in performance of full orchestral arrangements. Students will receive Honors credit upon successful completion of the course.
- B. Concert Band (*No audition required*)** – This class includes intermediate-level brass, woodwind, and percussion players who already have some performing experience but still require more development before advancing to the Symphonic Band. Students in the Concert Band will have a structured and deliberate learning environment in which to progress/improve fundamental music skills. The ensemble will perform at concerts throughout the year and may be adjudicated at festivals.
- C. Honors Jazz Ensemble (*Entrance by audition/Director approval*)** – This is a smaller class specifically devoted to playing jazz styles of music. It will generally adhere to standard big band instrumentation (vocalist(s), 5 saxophones, 4 trombones, 5 trumpets, and 1 player on each rhythm part). The Director may ask students from other performing groups to also play in the Jazz Ensemble to assure proper instrumentation. The Honors Jazz Ensemble performs frequently throughout the year for community events, concerts, and adjudicated jazz festivals.
- D. Jazz Lab Band (*Entrance by audition/Director approval*)** – This class introduces jazz styles of music to students and acts as a preparation to the Honors Jazz Ensemble. Students with less experience in jazz or with no jazz ensemble experience are enrolled in this class. Traditional and non-traditional jazz instruments and vocalists are welcome. The Jazz Lab Band performs for concerts, festivals, and community events throughout the year.
- E. Symphonic Orchestra (*Entrance by audition/Director approval*)** – This advanced class is the select ensemble for string musicians. The ensemble will perform at concerts throughout the year and be adjudicated at County/State festivals. Brass, woodwind and percussion students from Symphonic Band may join the Symphonic Orchestra in performance of full orchestral arrangements, allowing the ensemble to have an expanded repertoire of music spanning most of the major musical time periods. Students will receive Honors credit upon successful completion of the course.
- F. Concert Orchestra (*No audition required*)** – This class includes intermediate-level string players who already have some performing experience but still require more development before advancing to the Symphonic Orchestra. Students in the Concert Orchestra will have a structured and deliberate learning environment in which to progress/improve fundamental music skills. The ensemble will perform at concerts throughout the year and may be adjudicated at festivals.



### **Important Information About Scheduling**

If the correct music class does not appear on a student's schedule, please contact the Counseling Department and Directors as soon as the problem is discovered. We will work together to resolve the conflict or place the student in another ensemble.

Students who are unable to enroll in a music class because of a scheduling conflict are encouraged to participate in the Instrumental Music Program, with the understanding that they are committing to the same goals and objectives as students who are taking classes for credit. Non-enrolled students are expected to support the program by their participation in rehearsals and by performing with the ensembles.

**We want all students to continue and expand their musical experiences at Montgomery Blair High School.**

### **MCPS Honors/MMEA All-State Ensembles**

Students are highly encouraged to audition for these select honor ensembles. MCPS/MMEA rules require that **students MUST be enrolled in an Instrumental Music performing class for both semesters** in order to be eligible to perform with these ensembles. Only interested students who are recommended by the Director and commit to required rehearsals and performances can audition. See the Instrumental Music Calendar for specific deadlines and audition dates.

### **MCPS/MBDA/MODA Solo and Ensemble Festivals**

Students are highly encouraged to participate in these adjudicated events. MCPS/MMEA rules require that **students MUST be enrolled in an Instrumental Music performing class for both semesters in order to participate.** See the Instrumental Music Calendar for specific deadlines and audition dates.

#### **IV. Extracurricular Activities**

- A. Marching Band (*No audition required*)** – This group performs at football games, parades, and school events. Members play woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments and perform with the color guard.
- B. Pit Orchestra (*Entrance by audition/Director approval*)** –Accompanies the Spring Musical.
- C. Tri-M Music Honor Society (*11th and 12th grade music students eligible*)** – Students must be enrolled in a school-sponsored music ensemble and/or class for both semesters of the current school year to be considered for membership. For more information see <http://finearts.mbhs.edu/musicdept/tri-m.shtml>



## V. The Music Classroom

- A. *The Directors* will oversee all musical and academic activities and will advise students about their participation in the music program at MBHS and in opportunities available in the community.
- B. *The Membership* will consist of all students earning credit for their participation in Instrumental Music at MBHS. (Students unable to include music classes in their schedules are encouraged to participate in the music program by making a commitment to the spirit, ideals, and goals described in this handbook.)
- C. *Section Leader* – Section Leaders for the Symphonic Orchestra, Symphonic Band, Concert Orchestra, Concert Band, and Jazz Ensembles will be appointed by the Director after completion of Fall/Spring auditions. Section Leaders are responsible for marking parts, conducting productive sectional rehearsals, tutoring weaker players, and assisting the Director in fostering good morale and discipline within the organization. Sight-reading, organizational skills, scale proficiency, responsibility, and attitude are considered in selecting Section Leaders. The position of Section Leader is open each semester and may be vacated and filled at the Director’s discretion.
- D. Seating assignments are on the basis of proficiency and will be made by the Director after Fall/Spring auditions. Emphasis is placed on establishing overall good instrumentation, and allowing students to perform at their ability. Please understand that the first consideration is that all sections must be properly balanced. Therefore, strong players may be deliberately placed on lower parts. In fact, many students placed on lower parts are capable of playing a higher part. However, in band and orchestra all parts are equally important. In many cases, part rotation will be used to give students a well-rounded education. Questions regarding seating should be addressed to the Director. Seating auditions are a part of the student’s grade and will not be reassessed.

## VI. Regulations Governing the Music Facility

- A. Students shall use the Music Room only under the supervision of a Director. Students desiring to use the room for musical purposes outside of the normal full ensemble rehearsal must secure permission from the Directors. **No other person is authorized to grant permission to use the Music Room.**
- B. **No food or drink is allowed in the Music Room (except water).**
- C. The Directors’ office is **off-limits** to all students (unless permission is explicitly granted by a Director). Please knock AND be acknowledged before entering.
- D. Use of the telephone is limited to emergency calls and music department business only.



- E. An Instrument Storage Room is provided for students' use **at their own risk**. At the beginning of the school year, students who choose to use the storage room will be assigned a storage bin for his or her instrument. This space is not to be used as a locker room. Students will always use the provided combination lock and secure their instrument in the storage bin. The Instrument Storage Room will be opened at 7:10 A.M. and will be locked at 2:30 P.M. or after the last rehearsal. All students share in the responsibility for instrument security and should respect the property of others. Non-participants in the music program are not allowed in the Instrument Storage Room. All students must have their names visibly marked on their instrument cases. All instrument serial numbers must be registered with the Director at the beginning of the school year. *The Montgomery County Public School System and faculty are not responsible for lost or damaged instruments or other personal property.*
- F. All Percussion students will be held responsible for the organization and maintenance of the Percussion Room and instruments.
- G. All students should assist in caring for equipment and maintaining a clean music facility. No food or drink is allowed in the music facility during class or rehearsals. Anything brought into the area must be removed when leaving.
- H. All music should be stored in the issued leather folios and in the storage slots during the day. Students unable to attend a rehearsal should be certain that shared music and instruments are available to other players. There should be no inconvenience to players sharing a folder or instrument. Fines of \$5.00 per sheet and \$20.00 per folder will be levied for loss or damage to music/folder, and obligation forms will be sent to the MBHS Financial Secretary. Requests for sheet music replacement will only be honored before and after rehearsal. It is the student's responsibility to have the appropriate music for rehearsal.

## VII. Grading Procedures

### A. Group Performance (50%)

- i. **Formal Performance/Dress Rehearsal** – These are scheduled in advance, and dates are provided to students on the Instrumental Music Calendar (given to students the first week of school and also provided on the Fine Arts website). Performances may be during the school day, after school or on weekends. Attendance, punctuality to call time, concert dress, having the necessary instrument and materials, performance etiquette, and musical execution make up this portion of the grade. Failure to attend and positively contribute to a formal performance/dress rehearsal will result in lowering of the student's grade.



- ii. **Clinicians** – Periodically guest artists, clinicians, and college representatives demonstrate, lecture, and/or work with the MBHS music ensembles. It is important that students learn as much as possible from these experiences, and that MBHS is represented in a manner consistent with the highest possible standards. Therefore, students will be graded upon the same scale as the formal performance and dress rehearsals.
- iii. **Playing Assessment (Summative)** – Students will periodically be given small-group playing assessments on method book etudes and larger sections of the music being taught in class.
- iv. **Sectionals Led/Observed By Director** – Students will periodically perform with their section in the presence of the Director.

#### **B. Individual Evaluation (45%)**

- i. **Playing Assessment (Formative)** – Students will periodically be given playing assessments on fundamentals (ex. scales, rhythms) and smaller sections of the music being taught in class. These will test the student’s understanding of their individual ensemble part as it relates to currently rehearsed/performed music. In accordance with MCPS policy, individual playing tests, with the exception of seating auditions, will be re-assessable assignments.
- ii. **Rehearsal Technique** – This is the daily practice of appropriate ensemble etiquette and behavior. Specific behavior expectations are listed below in **Section VIII Classroom/Rehearsal Requirements** and in **Section IX Student Conduct**. A 5-point grade will be assessed daily based on these expectations. These daily scores will be tallied and factored into the final report card grade each marking period.
- iii. **Written Work** – Periodically, students will be given written assignments to reflect on performances and other relevant topics.
- iv. **Instrument Inspections** – A musician cannot sound his/her best on an instrument that is not in top condition. Inspections may take place during each marking period. A rubric will be provided to students before each announced inspection.

#### **C. Homework For Practice and Preparation (5%)\***

- i. At times, homework may be given for practice. These assignments will allow students to work towards a better performance.

*\*If no homework is assigned, percentages will be 55% Summative and 45% Formative.*





Additional Activities – Participation in additional activities outside of the normal school ensembles (ex. participation in youth orchestras, MCPS Honors/MMEA All-State or Solo and Ensemble Festivals) is highly encouraged. These activities further the development of the music student and strengthen their growth both musically and academically. These additional activities *do not count as extra credit* for the course in which the student is enrolled.

### **Statement from the Montgomery Blair High School Administration**

In performance-based classes (music, drama, physical education), attendance is essential to the integrity of the performing groups. Participating in rehearsals and in-class activities is necessary for the teacher to assess the students' readiness for culminating activities and performances. By missing these in-class activities and rehearsals, students may not be allowed to participate in the culminating performance and will be required to complete an alternative assessment.

### **Reteaching and Reassessment**

***For group performances***, there are no due dates or deadlines. This aspect of the grade is based solely on the specific activity and can only be assessed as described above.

Performances are the culmination of many hours of work and serve to complete the learning process. It is important that students meet their performance obligations, except in cases of severe illness or emergencies. Notes from parents regarding absences must be approved by the Director. Only absences that are excused for daily attendance by MCPS will be accepted for missed performances. A conflict with an extracurricular sports event is not an excused absence according to the MBHS Athletic Director. A job or employment conflict is also not an excused absence. Alternative assignments may be given when and if appropriate. Unexcused absences will count as an E. Performance schedules will be published regularly to aid the student in planning. Additional engagements will be accepted during the year, but only with the approval of the performing group and with advance notice. Check the bulletin board, website, listserv, and calendar for all important dates and times.

***For individual evaluation***, due dates and deadlines will be given in class at the time the assignment is given. In order to receive the minimum grade of 50%, the student must show:

#### **For Performance Evaluation**

A basic level of comprehension of notes and rhythms that does not appropriately reflect any or all style, tempo, musicianship, and/or flow of the passage.

#### **For Written Evaluation**

A basic attempt to complete the assignment, including Name, Date, and at least a short paragraph that illustrates the topic of the assignment in complete sentences.



Upon completion of an assignment, the student will have the option to be reassessed on qualifying individual assignments. The deadline for that reassessment will be two (2) weeks after the grade is given to the student. Reteaching and reassessment are an integral part of all Instrumental Music courses. After playing tests are evaluated, the student will be notified if additional reteaching and reassessment is necessary in order to understand the music being taught. Because playing proficiency builds upon what has been previously learned, it is very important that students understand the material. Every effort will be made to assist the student in mastering the subject matter.

## **VIII. Classroom/Rehearsal Requirements**

- A. Daily attendance directly affects the student's grade and also the entire ensemble's performance. It is necessary for all students to be present in order to achieve proper ensemble balance. Excessive unexcused absences, tardiness, or unpreparedness within a grading period will lower the student's grade.
- B. The student will be in place for rehearsal 3 minutes following the late bell, prepared to perform with appropriate instrument, sheet music, method book, and accessories (pencil, tuner, valve oil, reeds, rosin, etc.). Only an authorized Late Note will be accepted. All other tardiness will be recorded and administered as dictated by the MCPS and MBHS Absentee/Tardy policy.
- C. The student will appropriately warm-up and tune before the rehearsal begins unless instructed otherwise by the Director. Warm-ups may be provided by the Director or by a private teacher.
- D. The student will respect the ensemble by contributing to the rehearsal. Students who are temporarily unable to play for any reason are to sit with the ensemble during the rehearsal, as they will continue to learn even if they are not able to play their instruments. He/she must bring a note from home stating the reason and length of time for not playing. All notes must be given to the Director at the beginning of the period.
- E. There is to be no talking when the Director is on the podium, and the student will maintain silence during the rehearsal, except to ask questions by raising his/her hand. Efficient rehearsals require complete concentration and discipline, and leave no room for misbehaving. If a student is causing distractions during rehearsal, the student will be assigned another task at the discretion of the Director, and may be ultimately referred to an Administrator.
- F. Studying for other classes is not permitted during rehearsals. All backpacks, books, electronic devices and personal items must be kept away from the rehearsal space and secured.



- G. The student will demonstrate proper preventive maintenance for his/her instrument before, during and after the rehearsal. Proper assembly, usage, and storage are required. The student is responsible for making sure his/her instrument functions properly. If the student is unsure of the above, he/she should ask the Director.
- H. The student will show evidence of having prepared his/her individual part outside of the regular rehearsal/class time. Individual/section playing tests will be used as well as Director-observed group performances to determine preparedness.
- I. The student will demonstrate a working knowledge of musical terms, basic music theory, and history as it relates to music performed in rehearsals. Students are encouraged to write down new or unfamiliar terms in their planbook.

## **IX. Student Conduct**

All students in the Instrumental Music Department are expected to reflect only the best qualities in their everyday contact with members of the entire Montgomery Blair community including staff, students, families, guests, and when traveling. The Instrumental Music Program wants to be respected as one that is sincere in its interests in music education. Students are representatives of Montgomery Blair High School and Montgomery County Public Schools.

- A. *In Class* – Be prepared. Be ready to perform and do everything to ensure an effective rehearsal. Have a pencil and tuner. Always mark parts and listen to all instruments, regardless of whether they pertain to you or your section at that moment. Rehearse the way you would perform. Come to class with a positive attitude – it’s a proven fact that both positive and negative attitudes are contagious.
- B. *In Concert* – Be on time for warm-up, appropriately dressed, and demonstrate a high degree of professionalism.
- C. *With Substitutes, Chaperones, and Student Teachers* – Remember that they are acting directly on behalf of the Director. They must receive the same respect and cooperation as the Director.
- D. *On Field Trips* – Permissions slips must be signed and returned immediately. Field trips are an important part of our performance activities.
- E. *At Performances* – Show self-control, attentiveness, and proper concert manners during the performance of other groups as well as your own. Always remember that you are representing our Instrumental Music Program and MBHS. School policies govern these activities.



- F. *While Traveling* – On school and charter buses, all Montgomery County Public School rules apply. Be particularly careful in loading and unloading instruments and equipment on buses. Maintain a low noise level and do not leave the bus until you are given instructions. Students may use private vehicles in some cases, but must fill out the appropriate forms and have them signed by a parent/guardian.
- G. *Fire/Shelter/Lockdown Drills* – These are required by the State of Maryland and should be treated seriously. Procedures will be outlined at the beginning of the semester. The entire class is expected to move together carefully, quickly, and efficiently. Do not take instruments with you outside. Students who fail to adhere to these guidelines will be disciplined.

**Failure to comply with Classroom/Rehearsal Requirements or Student Conduct rules may result in lowering of the student's grade, detention, parent/guardian conference, dismissal from the rehearsal, referral, or permanent removal from the class.**

#### **X. Videotaping/Recording/Photography**

Videotaping of practices and performances is a valuable instructional tool both for the instructors and the performers that will be utilized throughout the year.

Reviewing videos enables the Directors to make effective and necessary adjustments for future performances.

The practice of videotaping is not unique to instrumental music. Sports teams, dance teams, and theater groups often use this important tool.

*Unfortunately, due to time constraints, not every videotaped practice/performance can be viewed by the entire ensemble.*

Videotaped performances, recordings and photographs may also be used for recruitment purposes.

Parent/Guardian/Students understand and agree that their likeness, voice, and/or performance may be shown/printed in newspapers, magazines, on the Internet, on CDs, on DVDs, on videotape, on television, or other media by Montgomery County Public Schools and its assigns for all purposes of education, instruction, or public information with or without the use of the student's name.

If you are interested in or are able to videotape or photograph performances of any ensemble, please contact the Directors.



## XI. Concert Attire

Concert attire is designed to identify members of the MBHS Instrumental Music Program as a unique and distinct group representing MBHS. The concert attire is always to be worn in its entirety and with pride. The Director will designate which attire is appropriate for an activity. All MCPS/MBHS rules regarding use of school property apply. Failure to return or loss of the uniform will result in the billing of the full cost of the uniform. All financial obligations will be handled through the MBHS Financial Secretary.

### **STUDENTS WHO FAIL TO WEAR THE SPECIFICIED ATTIRE WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE, AND CREDIT FOR THAT PERFORMANCE WILL BE LOST.**

#### A. Symphonic Band (provided by the student)

- i. *Males* Black, long-sleeved, collared dress shirt, black trousers, black shoes/socks.
- ii. *Females* Floor-length black dress; or black long-sleeved blouse, floor-length black skirt/black pants; black shoes/stockings.

#### B. Concert Band (provided by the student)

- i. *Males* Black, long-sleeved, collared dress shirt, black trousers, black shoes/socks.
- ii. *Females* Floor-length black dress; or black long-sleeved blouse, floor-length black skirt/black pants; black shoes/stockings.

#### C. Symphonic Orchestra (provided by the student)

- i. *Males* Black, long-sleeved, collared dress shirt, black trousers, black shoes/socks.
- ii. *Females* Floor-length black dress; or black long-sleeved blouse, floor-length black skirt/black pants; black shoes/stockings.

#### D. Concert Orchestra (provided by the student)

- i. *Males* Black, long-sleeved, collared dress shirt, black trousers, black shoes/socks.
- ii. *Females* Floor-length black dress; or black long-sleeved blouse, floor-length black skirt/black pants; black shoes/stockings.

#### E. Jazz Ensembles (provided by the student)

- i. *Males* Dark suit with tie, black shoes/socks.
- ii. *Females* Dark long-sleeved button-down dress shirt, dark floor-length pants, black shoes.

\*Hats are not permitted



## XII. School-Owned Instruments

School-owned instruments may be borrowed free of charge for the school year or during summers. Students must fill out and return the Instrument Use Form before being issued an instrument. Students are required to supply their own bows, mouthpieces, mallets or sticks, rosin, reeds, valve/slide oil, strings, cables/cords, and all accessories.

If a school-owned instrument is accidentally damaged at a rehearsal or performance, inform the Director immediately so that the appropriate repairs can be made. Directors *request* that the student/family take the broken instrument to an MCPS authorized repair shop, pick it up when it is done, and pay for the cost of the repair. If the cost to repair the instrument creates a financial hardship, please see the Director.

If an instrument is **maliciously or carelessly** lost or damaged, **the student will be charged** for either the repair to the instrument or the purchase of a replacement, if necessary.

## XIII. Private Lessons

While it is not a requirement of the Instrumental Music Department that students take lessons, students who do take lessons find themselves advancing faster. They are also better prepared to qualify for additional music-related activities (ex. All-State Bands and Orchestras, MCPS Honors Bands and Orchestras, Solo/Ensemble Festivals, youth orchestras, music scholarships to summer camps and colleges, etc.).

*A list of private instructors is available from the Directors.*

## XIV. Practicing

Private practice is a necessary ingredient in establishing a successful musical program. Students should commit time to improving their musical performance skills and physical conditioning. Practicing your instrument is homework – remember that homework is required for success in *every* class.

Here is a sample routine:

Plan a minimum of 40 minutes of practice time each day.

1. Warm-up for 5 minutes. Play long tones and scales to get muscles ready for a workout. Do not strain yourself during warm-up.
2. Practice technique for 5 minutes. Include exercises in tonguing/slurring/bowing and mixed articulations. Use this time for exercises in thirds, key studies, lip slurs, learning



a new trill, fingering and so forth. Strive to improve your technical achievement.  
Percussion students: practice rudiments.

3. Practice for 25 minutes. Work on band and orchestra parts, solos, etc. Work slowly at first, being certain you have correct fingerings, articulations, rhythms, dynamics and phrasing. Jot notes to yourself in pencil. Practice slow passages slowly for proper breath support. Practice fast passages slowly and evenly at first, with a **metronome**, and gradually increase your tempo as you master the technique. Metronomes are available free online, as “apps” for smartphones, or for purchase at retail music stores. Unlearning something takes longer than learning it correctly the first time....
4. Sight-read for 5 minutes. Practice reading something new from start to finish without stopping to fix errors. If you are making a lot of mistakes, try sight-reading slowly, counting carefully and noting the key. Then return to areas that caused problems and review them further.

## **XV. Supplies**

### **All Instrumental Music Students**

1. Metronome
2. Tuner (ex. Snark)
3. Pencils and Erasers

### **Flutes**

1. Swab
2. Small artists brush for cleaning between keys
3. Soft cloth

### **Brasses**

1. Snake for cleaning
2. Valve oil/slide lubricant
3. Mouthpiece and brush
4. Mouthpiece disinfectant (ex. Roche Thomas Mi-T-Mist)
5. Trumpets and Trombones: straight and cup mutes

### **Strings**

1. Rosin (BASS ROSIN FOR BASS PLAYERS)
2. Extra strings
3. Soft cloth
4. Mute
5. Hygrometer and humidifier (ex. Dampit)
6. Peg compound



### **Percussion**

1. One pair of matched wooden snare drum sticks (ex. Vic Firth SD1)
2. One pair of multi-purpose felt or yarn mallets
3. One pair of bell mallets (metal or rubber)
4. One pair of timpani mallets

### **Single Reed Woodwinds**

1. Several reeds (each day) in top playing condition
2. Reed guard
3. Cork grease
4. Swab for drying instrument after each playing
5. Saxophones and low clarinets: neck strap (when buying, know whether you need one or two hooks)

### **Double Reed Woodwinds**

1. Several reeds (each day) in top playing condition
2. Small vial for soaking reeds
3. Cork grease
4. Reed case
5. Swab or turkey feather
6. Bassoon: seat strap

### **Electric Guitar/Bass**

1. Picks
2. Instrument cable

## **XVI. Hearing Protection**

Hearing loss from exposure to loud sounds affects millions of people. Noise-induced hearing loss is preventable, but most people do not know how long they can listen to loud sound without risking hearing damage. To learn about hearing protection, visit [www.etymotic.com](http://www.etymotic.com), where you can purchase inexpensive ER-20 ready-fit ETY-Plugs. ER-20 plugs are also available for purchase on [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com). To be fitted for more expensive custom musicians earplugs, please consult an otolaryngologist, a doctor who specializes in hearing.





## **XVII. Special Note to Parents/Guardians**

Supporting your student's music education is invaluable not only to them, but also to the success of the MBHS Instrumental Music Program.

- Attend your student's performances.
- Plan family activities around performance dates. A calendar is provided on the Fine Arts website, to the students at the beginning of the year, and at Back to School Night.
- Encourage your student to take private lessons.
- Monitor your student's practice and give constructive feedback as necessary.
- See that damaged instruments are repaired promptly.
- Encourage your student to join an extracurricular ensemble (ex. MCYO, PVYO, DCYO, AYP).
- Support the Montgomery Blair Band and Orchestra Patrons, the BBOPs.
- Contact the Director if you are concerned about your student's music education.

## **XVIII. Blair Band and Orchestra Patrons Organization (BBOPs)**

The Blair Band and Orchestra Patrons (BBOPs) are parents and guardians of Montgomery Blair Instrumental Music students. Functions of the BBOPs include:

1. To support the goals and objectives of the Instrumental Music Program.
2. To assist the Directors, staff, and students with administrative and logistical support when requested.
3. To help promote a positive image of the Instrumental Music Program throughout the community.
4. To provide financial support for the Instrumental Music Program.
5. To foster communication between the Instrumental Music Directors, music students and parents.
6. To foster parental involvement and support of students in the Instrumental Music Program.

The BBOPs normally meet each month.

## **XIX. Email Communication**

The Instrumental Music Department provides important information and schedule updates to students and families using MCPS email and the BBOPs listserv. Please provide your email address(es) on the attached form so that you will receive important teacher emails. Also, please send an email to the BBOPs at [bbops-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:bbops-subscribe@yahoogroups.com) to enroll on the BBOPs listserv. Also, be sure to set up both parent/guardian and student Edline accounts.



# 2015 – 2016 Instrumental Music Contract

We have read and understand the Montgomery Blair High School Instrumental Music Handbook and agree to abide by and consent to the rules, regulations, attendance and videotaping/recording/photography policies. We have reviewed the Calendar of Events and will notify the Director two weeks in advance if the student cannot attend a scheduled activity.

Student Name (Print): \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Email Address(es): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name (Print): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Email Address(es): \_\_\_\_\_

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# 2015 – 2016 Instrumental Music Contract

We have read and understand the Montgomery Blair High School Instrumental Music Handbook and agree to abide by and consent to the rules, regulations, attendance and videotaping/recording/photography policies. We have reviewed the Calendar of Events and will notify the Director two weeks in advance if the student cannot attend a scheduled activity.

Student Name (Print): \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Email Address(es): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name (Print): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Email Address(es): \_\_\_\_\_

© ***Return this bottom copy to your Director immediately!*** ©

