

A Letter From the Director

Welcome!

I would like to take this opportunity to tell you just how much I am looking forward to the 2010-2011 season. This year will be exciting, fun, rewarding and full of new experiences for all who are involved.

This handbook will help everyone understand the expectations of our program. There has been extra care and time dedicated to planning and organizing all future events. Please read each section carefully and feel free to refer to any section throughout the year for clarification on any subject.

Again, we look forward to working with all of you this season and we are positive that with hard work and dedication, this band can be the best it has ever been.

Thank you for all that you do and best wishes as the year unfolds!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brent A. Mounger". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Brent Mounger, Band Director
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Phone: 305.232.2044 Ex. 2319

Section 1: Program Objectives

The director and staff are committed to developing a well rounded, expressive student that not only is a fine performer, but demonstrates a heightened sense of personal/social skills which include, but are not limited to: team work, promptness, responsibility, conduct, and effort. Also important is the desire to emphasize artistic expression through music as a top priority. Band students will be able to demonstrate proficiency on a wind or percussion instrument through performance and practice. They will demonstrate music literacy in relation to reading music, as well as expressive and stylistic nuance associated with a piece of music. Furthermore, the student will demonstrate characteristics associated with good musicianship including tone, posture, rhythmic accuracy, instrument care and maintenance, as well as, social and conduct skills associated with performing ensembles. Specific classroom objectives are derived from the MENC National Standards for Music Education and are also cross-referenced using the benchmarks outlined within the *Sunshine State Standards*.

Students should desire more – to be more. Never settle for anything less than the best – Their BEST!

MENC National Standards for Music Education

1. Singing, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music.
2. Performing on instruments, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music.
3. Improvising melodies, variations, and accompaniments.
4. Composing and arranging music within specified guidelines.
5. Reading and notating music.
6. Listening to, analyzing, and describing music.
7. Evaluating music and music performances.
8. Understanding relationships between music, the other arts, and disciplines outside the arts.
9. Understanding music in relation to history and culture.

Section 2: Attendance Policies

The key to success for any performing group is regular attendance. Students cannot learn if they are not being taught. A missed rehearsal cannot be made up. The director and staff make a conscious effort to provide all students and parents with the earliest possible notification of all events. Any event that is placed on the calendar is MANDATORY. There will be an updated calendar distributed one month prior to any event being scheduled. *The director must be notified in writing of any pre-arranged absence that conflicts with a scheduled rehearsal or performance in this handbook's published calendar prior to July 1, 2010. All other pre-arranged absences must be cleared with the director one week after the new calendar is distributed in January Of 2011.*

DAILY CLASS ATTENDANCE

- Band students will report to their assigned seat in the band room with a working instrument, all necessary accessories, pencil, music, and a music stand no later than 5 minutes after the tardy bell rings.
- All absences need to be cleared through the attendance office. Students with excessive absences and tardies will be excluded from all field trips with the band per M-DCPS.

REHEARSALS

- Marching Band is a Requirement for the VPA academy.
- Missing a scheduled marching band rehearsal, whether excused or unexcused, may result in the student being “benched” for that week’s game. Students will still be expected to attend the game and perform in the stands.
- **Due to the fact that rehearsals have been limited to two days a week, students need to be there in order to be successful.** While we understand that emergencies happen, the band can only be successful when all of its members are present at all of the activities.
- If a student is consistently absent or tardy to rehearsals their semester grade will suffer and they will be put on probation.
- Missing any scheduled band rehearsal, whether excused or unexcused, may result in the student being cut from the performance.

PERFORMANCES

- Students are expected to attend every performance. In the case of an extreme emergency (in which a reasonable effort of communication is still expected) contact must be made no later than 24 hours prior to any absence. 24-hour voice mail is available at (305) 232-2044 extension 2319. You may also e-mail the director at bmounger@dadeschools.net.
- Should a student miss a scheduled performance, they will receive a failing semester grade (F) and they will be placed on probation.
- Performances include, but are not limited to, pep rallies, football games, band competitions & evaluations, parades, and the winter and spring concerts and recitals.

AFTER SCHOOL REHEARSALS

- As per the State of Florida, FDOE and the Sunshine State Standards after school rehearsals are considered part of the “Academic” grade in band. All students will receive a grade for each after school rehearsal. The grades will be given as follows:
 - X= Student was present and on time to rehearsal.
 - C= Student was late to rehearsal.
 - F= Student did not attend rehearsal.

SICKNESS OR ILLNESS

- All sickness and illness must be accompanied with a parental and or Doctor’s note to be excused.

MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS

Since there are very few, if any after school rehearsals, parents are requested to make a reasonable effort to schedule medical appointments at times so that they will not interfere with scheduled events. Please refer to the first paragraph of this section. In regard to orthodontic and dental procedures, since wind players use their mouth to perform on their instrument, orthodontic adjustments and dental procedures can, and do, have a great impact on the student’s ability to perform. Parents are requested to schedule orthodontic and dental procedures no less than two weeks prior to a performance.

Section 3: Eligibility

Participating in the Coral Reef Barracuda Band means that you are a member of a select group of individuals that supports school spirit and pride. Specific standards of eligibility must be maintained.

GRADE REQUIREMENTS

- Students must maintain a 2.3 minimum G.P.A.
- The director may review grades periodically.
- Failure to maintain minimum grade requirements may result in exclusion from certain activities as mandated by M-DCPS, FSMA, and Florida State Law.

ENROLLMENT

- All Band Academy students are required to participate in the marching band.

PERFORMANCE ELIGIBILITY

- During band camp, the director assigns students a performance spot. This is based on attendance, effort, ability, and conduct.
- Students who have not completed their paperwork (Donation sheet & Contract, Health Forms) prior to camp may be designated as an alternate.
- An alternate may be assigned to move "props". This is considered a performance spot.
- ***Performance status is determined through ability and attendance, not seniority.***
- Certain factors may result in the loss of a performance spot (refer to **Section 2: Attendance**, **Section 5: Conduct** and **Section 6: Uniforms** for more details).

All Barracuda Band members will have numerous performance opportunities throughout the year. There may, however, be times in each performance where the routine can only accommodate a set number of performers. Students must realize that membership alone does not guarantee a performance spot. Any member who is assigned an alternate spot continues to be evaluated by the rules and regulations set forth in this handbook.

ENSEMBLE ELIGIBILITY

In order to promote maximum impact, students will be divided into appropriate classes based primarily upon a yearly audition. This audition will take place for new students upon their acceptance into the band academy; for returning students, this audition will take place in February or March of the previous school year. Once the auditions are complete, students are placed in one of three ensembles based upon instrumentation requirements, and their audition scores.

Brass Ensemble, Chamber Winds, & Symphonic Band

These ensembles are open to students who meet minimum performance standards on a wind or percussion instrument. Students are expected to try and obtain the highest quality instrument, mouthpiece, and/or mallets available. Certain uniform and financial obligations are required. The band may travel and attend special events.

Wind Ensemble & Concert Jazz Band

These ensembles are open to students through an audition. Students are expected to obtain the highest quality instrument, mouthpiece, and/or mallets available. Honors credit is available to junior and senior band members in this course. Certain uniform and financial obligations are required. The band may travel and attend special events.

AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

Jazz Band:

Saxophone, trumpet, trombone, guitar, bass, & piano:

- Two blues scales from memory in swing form.
- Sight-reading of a jazz solo. Students will be judged on their proficiency of tempo, style, rhythm, and articulations.

Drum Set:

- Be prepared to demonstrate the following styles: medium tempo swing, bossa nova, slow ballad (with brushes), jazz waltz, salsa, medium tempo rock, and funk.

Wind Ensemble

- a) Scale Jury with passing grade of an A or B.

*Symphonic Band, Chamber Winds and Brass Techniques do not require an audition.

Section 4: Grading

COMPUTATION OF GRADES

- All Tests, Worksheets, Classroom Evaluations, Playing Tests, and Performance Grades are averaged to produce an Academic Grade.
- Each student begins the grading period with a “1” in effort. Consistent failure to bring instrument and supplies, or participate in daily classroom activities will lower the effort grade.
- Each student begins each grading period with an “A” in conduct. Consistent failure to adhere to the rules of conduct as outlined in this handbook will lower this grade. Other disciplinary consequences may also apply.
- Each performance which has been on the calendar for more than a month is mandatory unless cleared with the director. Should a student not attend a performance, that student will fail both of their band classes for the nine-weeks in which the event was scheduled and will be placed on probation.

Section 5: Conduct

In order to maximize rehearsal time and to maintain the stability of the band, certain codes of conduct are emphasized. Students must understand that we rehearse as a group, perform as a group, and are judged as a group. The quality of the group will only be as good as the weakest member. The consequences for failing to follow any of the following guidelines may result in one or more of the following actions: detention, forfeiture of a performance spot, or exclusion from a performance. Repeated or deliberate infractions may result in one or more of the following: school referral, and withdrawal from the class, academy, and ultimately from Coral Reef High School. Refer to the M-DCPS Student Code of Conduct for further information.

CONDUCT AT REHEARSALS, PERFORMANCES, AND FOOTBALL GAMES

- Students will refrain from eating candy and chewing gum.
- Students will not be permitted to visit the concession stand during football games.
- Students will refrain from talking and are expected to listen attentively while a director, instructor, chaperone, or any officer is talking or giving directions.
- Students will stay until dismissed.
- Students are not to converse or associate with spectators at rehearsals or during performances.
- Students will refrain from arguing with one another.
- Students will refrain from using profanity or provocative language.
- All band members will participate in performing stands music or routines. No one is permitted to perform music or movement to any song unless prior approval is granted by the band director.
- Students are allowed to use the restroom only when escorted by a chaperone.
- Talking is not permitted when the band is warming up or tuning in the stands.
- "Booing" is not good sportsmanship and is not permitted.
- No one is to stand during the game unless instructed to do so (such as performing stands music, or the playing of the National Anthem).
- Always be aware of what is happening in the football game. Be ready for performance on short notice from the drum majors.
- Proper professional decorum is expected at all times. "Giggling" or inability to recover is unacceptable.
- Insubordination and defiance will not be tolerated.

CONDUCT TO AND FROM PERFORMANCES

- Band members are expected to meet at the time and place designated by their director.
- All members are expected to ride the bus to and from events unless the director grants special permission.
- Talking is permitted on the bus, yelling is not.
- Students will stay on the bus until dismissed.
- At some football games, students may be asked to keep windows up until the bus clears the stadium.
- Students are expected to follow all directions given by bus captains and chaperones.

CONDUCT IN THE BAND/GUARD FACILITY

- Students will enter the room quietly especially when another group is rehearsing.

- Students are not permitted to touch, tap, hit, or play any musical instruments that do not belong to them. No one is allowed to play percussion instruments unless they are a percussionist or have special permission from the band director.
- Students may not use the stereo unless they receive permission from the director.
- *Horseplay or roughhousing* will not be tolerated in or around the band facility.

ETHICS

- All band members are expected to refrain from smoking, drinking alcoholic beverages, and using drugs or other mood modifying agents.
- Students are expected to care for personal property, the property of others, and school property.
- Band members are expected to act as a positive role model for all outside observers.

CONDUCT ON TRIPS

- Students and their parents must attend a special trip meeting prior to departure.
- Special codes of dress and conduct will be discussed at the trip meeting.
- All paperwork involving parental consent must be completed prior to deadline.
- Financial obligations to the BBPA should be resolved prior to departure.

Section 6: Uniforms

INSPECTION

There will be an inspection before every performance. Each member is to report for every turnout in complete uniform. The uniform is to be worn with pride and dignity. When you wear our uniform you are representing your school, the band, the community, and the traditions and the honors earned by the members of the group before you. Inspecting officers and directors will instruct you as to procedures. Inspection is a PASS/FAIL situation. You cannot "almost" pass inspection. If you fail inspection, you may be excluded from performing until you pass inspection.

PEP/GAME UNIFORM

- For games: Band students will wear long black pants (no jeans), polo pep shirts, marching band cap, marching shoes, and black socks.
- For pep rallies: Generally, pep uniforms are worn on days in which there is a game, a pep rally, or both.
- Seniors may wear their own class ring with the pep uniform.

COMPETITION UNIFORM

- Band students will be issued a performance uniform. The replacement cost for this uniform is \$350.00.
- Upon return to school from a competition, students must change out of their competition uniform and back into street clothes.
- Only clear nail polish is permitted.
- Jewelry (with the exception of very small studs for pierced ears) is not permitted.
- Students without the correct style of marching shoe (as ordered from the approved vendor) may not be allowed to perform.

PRACTICE-WEAR REQUIREMENTS

- All band students are **REQUIRED** to adhere to all school dress code regulations while at every after-school rehearsal
- Band students will wear athletic shorts (no pants or jeans), a light colored t-shirt (no tube-tops, spaghetti straps, bikini tops, etc), running shoes (no “skater” or flat-footed shoes), and socks to all marching band rehearsals.

CONCERT UNIFORMS FOR ALL CONCERT ENSEMBLES

- Men: Tux coat, black tux pants, black cummerbund & bowtie, black dress shoes.
- Women: Black concert dress and closed toed black shoes or concert black skirt, palazzo pants and tops from the approved vendor. *Pants, shorts, or shirts worn underneath the dress is unacceptable and considered to be out of uniform.*
- All concert uniform and accessory orders must be taken care of in September.

Section 7: Winter/Spring Activities

As noted on the calendar, rehearsals and performance events continue throughout the year. Students are expected to continue attending all rehearsals, as they are a co-requisite for the band class they are enrolled in.

All students are required to participate in the Florida Bandmaster’s Association District Solo & Ensemble evaluation held in January. Specific requirements are as follows:

- Each band student will prepare a solo that is listed in the F.B.A. music list at a level of difficulty as outlined in ‘Section 3: Eligibility’.
 - All students will be assessed a \$15.00 registration fee for this event. This amount is subject to change as passed by FBA.
 - ⊖ Students must make arrangements with their own accompanist.
 - ⊖ All students in Wind Ensemble must prepare a grade 5 or higher solo from the F.B.A. list for Solo/Ensemble festival in January. Please note that students who perform a grade 5 or higher solo or ensemble and receive a superior at the district evaluation are eligible for the state evaluation in March/April.
 - Students in Symphonic Band will perform grade 4 or higher solo for Solo and Ensemble Festival.

All band students will participate in the FBA District Concert Evaluation as a partial fulfillment of M-DCPS Competency Based Curriculum requirements.

Section 8: Student Officers

The directors will have the final say on who is chosen for an officer position. The selection process occurs in April/May and candidates will be evaluated as follows:

- Participation in all Officer Candidate School after-school activities.
- Complete application with signature and initials in appropriate areas. Returning officer applicants will also be evaluated on past work.
- Applicants for Drum Major and Band Captain must attend a clinic and audition to be considered. They might also be required to prepare a speech for all band classes to hear as to why they would like to be considered for the position.
- Officers will be removed from their position for dereliction of duty, and/or conduct and ethical violations.

Description of officer positions and their duties:

Band Captain

- The second in command to the band and all officers in the band under the director. Will ensure that each officer is doing their job at each performance, event, rehearsal, or sectional. In the absence of an officer, the band captain will assume that position for the day and be responsible for all duties associated with such position. This is the only person other than the marching lieutenant who is allowed to break rank during a marching rehearsal to fix forms and give commands. In charge of inspection before all football games and competitions. In absence of drum majors, will conduct the band at rehearsals and if necessary, performances. Concludes every practice with announcements from the directors and/or officers of the band.

Drum Major

- Serves as conductor to the band at all marching rehearsals and performances. Serves as conductor to the band at rehearsals in concert season in the absence of a director. Also in charge of helping to run marching and concert rehearsals, calling commands on the field when needed, and making sure all rehearsals throughout the year begin on time. Will warm-up the band physically and musically before all rehearsals in the absence of and/or assistance to the director.

Woodwind/Brass/Percussion Music Lieutenants

- Will call sectional music rehearsals as necessary. Responsible for making sure that section has marching music memorized and performs all selected music with proficiency according to the requests of the directors. Job will continue during concert season with similar responsibilities.

Woodwind/Brass/Percussion Marching Lieutenants

- Will call marching sectionals as necessary. Responsible for making sure that each section is marching with correct technique at each practice. Will be the only officer in addition to the band captain allowed to break rank during marching rehearsals to fix forms as necessary. During concert season, this person will assist section leaders in sectional music rehearsals.

Property Manager/Assistant Property Manager

- Responsible for all instruments and equipment that belongs to the band. Will check out school instruments to students, issue lockers, and keep track of all forms that are associated with the distribution and maintenance of band property. In charge of getting all equipment out to the band field on time for practice every day and making sure that lines are painted on the field when necessary.

Librarian/Assistant Librarian

- Ensures that every person in the band is supplied with copies of music for the marching show, the stands at football games, pep rallies, concerts, and any performances. Keeps track of the library, organizes all music folders, and inputs new music into the database.

Secretary

- Accountable for taking attendance at every performance, rehearsal, and field trip that the band partakes in. Will keep a log of students who miss anything that is required of them and report to the band director immediately. Will make calendar of events for the band and inform all other officers of any changes as per the director's request. Responsible for any forms or important documents which need to be distributed to the band and/or collected from the band.

Section 9: General Information

CONFERENCES

Students and parents who need to speak with the directors regarding personal concerns or student progress are requested to call the band office to schedule an appointment so that sufficient uninterrupted time can be scheduled to address your concerns. Parents are requested not to confer with the Band Director, or band staff about grades during rehearsals or performances.

BARRACUDA BAND PARENTS ASSOCIATION (BBPA)

All parents and students are encouraged to participate in this organization. Parent volunteers who have been nominated and elected by the general membership run the organization. All parents are considered members if their child is enrolled in the Band Academy. Information about this organization will be distributed at the band's first performance scheduled for August, 2010. The BBPA functions as a separate entity from Coral Reef High School and publishes its own set of rules referred to as the BBPA Constitution and By-laws. This organization is recognized as a non-profit organization and charitable contributions are always welcome.

- Meetings will be held every month on the second Tuesday of each month.
- Parents are expected to volunteer a minimum of 4 hours to the VPA Band academy during the school year. Our program cannot succeed without the help and support of the parents!

INSTRUMENTS

The band has a limited number of instruments for rent. Students who play flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, or trombone may need to obtain an instrument from an outside vendor. Students are responsible for the care and maintenance of all instruments issued to them. Instruments must be placed in the designated storage area with cases latched when not being used. Personal items, including mouthpieces, should never be left in instrument case while not in use. All instruments should go home daily; the band storage cabinets are for convenience only.

- Brass players will provide their own mouthpiece.
- Woodwind players will provide their own mouthpiece, ligature, and reeds.
- Percussionists need to supply their own mallets and beaters. All percussionists will be held accountable for the storing, securing, and maintenance of all school percussion instruments and mallets prior to and after every rehearsal.
- All students who are renting a school instrument must turn in a completed instrument contract form before they will be allowed to take home any instrument. ALL SCHOOL OWNED INSTRUMENTS ARE ISSUED IN WORKING ORDER. UPON THEIR RETURN, MUST BE IN THE SAME CONDITION AS ISSUED TO THE STUDENT, students must return the school owned instrument with a receipt from an authorized instrument repair store or dealer at the conclusion of the school year showing that the instrument was certified in working order and **CLEANED**.
- Students renting an instrument from the school must maintain the instrument on their own throughout the year. Coral Reef Senior High School and the BBPA will not pay to repair instrument.

COMMUNICATION

Throughout the year, memos containing pertinent information are signed out to students. It is the student's responsibility to deliver these memos to their parents. Parents are also expected to check their email for updates on a regular basis!

FUNDRAISING

The band program is an enormous vehicle that depends on money from a variety of sources in order to function properly. Students are required to share in the expense by following through on fair share contributions. The money given to us by the school does not cover all of the expenses incurred by the students. **YOU CAN GREATLY REDUCE YOUR FAIR SHARE CONTRIBUTION BY PARTICIPATING IN FUND-RAISERS!** To help provide students with uniforms and accessories, the BBPA organizes and runs numerous fund-raisers throughout the year. Look for flyers, announcements, and newsletters that are periodically sent home describing current fund-raising opportunities.

Beginning in the Fall of 2010 each band member will be expected to find two sponsors for the band. A packet will be distributed with information regarding the sponsorship program and what is required for each student!

Throughout the year, the BBPA may sponsor carwashes and other fundraisers to help pay for fair share contributions or raise money for the band. These activities may be organized and supervised by parent volunteers associated with the band patron organization and not M-DCPS personnel. It should be noted that roadside sales or donations (a.k.a. "Highway Holdups") are strictly prohibited, and are not condoned by the BBPA, or M-DCPS. Furthermore, students are not to hold signs in the median or near busy intersection.

Section 10: Signature of Understanding

Student Signature

By signing this paper I, _____, agree to adhere to all of the statements and rules set forth by the Directors and Parents of the Coral Reef Barracuda Band. Furthermore, I will understand that any infraction on my part regarding said rules will result in disciplinary action as deemed necessary by the director, the School and/or the Miami/Dade County Public School District.

Signature of Student

_____/_____/2010
Date

Parent Signature

By signing this paper, I / we _____, agree to support all of the statements and rules set forth by the Directors and Parents of the Coral Reef Barracuda Band. Furthermore, I/we understand that any infraction on my child's part regarding said rules will result in disciplinary action as deemed necessary by the Director, the School and/or the Miami-Dade County Public School District.

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian

_____/_____/2010
Date

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- Students renting an instrument from the school must maintain the instrument on their own throughout the year. Coral Reef Senior High School and the BBPA will not pay to repair instrument. _____ *Parent Initials*