



MIRA COSTA HIGH SCHOOL

BAND COURSES REGISTRATION GUIDE

2019-2020



OVERVIEW AND PHILOSOPHY

Welcome to the **GRAMMY® Award Winning** Mira Costa High School Bands. Here you will find a community of caring, dedicated students, teachers and parents, passionately pursuing musical excellence at the highest levels. Be it performing as a featured guest in **Carnegie Hall**, as a perennial **Finalist at State Marching Band Championships**, or here on campus for our families, friends and neighbors, the Mira Costa Bands offer a place for students to gain the greatest collaborative, cognitive and creative benefits of a **high-quality music education**.

FRESHMEN ENROLMENT OPTIONS

We offer **two courses** that incoming 9th graders will want to take advantage of:

1. **Symphonic Band** – the Mira Costa High School Symphonic Band performs advanced high school literature and is considered the next stage of musical development after performing in middle school band in MBUSD. It offers **one year of Arts Credit**, fulfills the UC/CSU “F” Requirement and the Mira Costa Graduation Requirement of one year of Visual and Performing Arts Credit. The Symphonic Band is the only open enrollment Concert Ensemble offered to freshmen and will hold a place in your schedule for band should you be offered a spot in one of the other ensembles through the Placement Assessment process (see below).
2. **Marching Band PE** – the Mira Costa High School Marching Band is considered one of the best of it’s kind in the State. This dynamic performing ensemble offers **one year of PE credit** to it’s freshmen members, which fulfills one half of the two year Mira Costa Graduation Requirement for PE. The Marching Band is a Varsity team that practices and competes primarily in the fall season (August to November) with a few parades through the rest of year, including a **march down Main Street U.S.A. at Disneyland!** The Marching Band is the pride of the Manhattan Beach Community and as a team with no bench, every performer is constantly contributing to the success of the group. The camaraderie built in the Marching Band is second to none and **we HIGHLY encourage all incoming freshmen to enroll** for their first year in band unless there are extenuating circumstances. Being enrolled in one of the Concert Ensembles (or Jazz I) is a prerequisite for joining Marching Band.

PLACEMENT ASSESSMENTS

Placement Assessments are a set of department wide assessments for each student entering or returning to the Mira Costa Bands and are **conducted in early June** at MCHS and MBMS in class, and after school at MCHS for students transferring into the district. These assessments help us to find just the right place for each student musician to thrive, performing music that will challenge them in an exciting, but not overly burdensome or stressful way. **In early May of each year, we post Placement Assessments music online at www.miracostabands.com.** The music posted online will allow students to challenge themselves at various levels if they desire to see if they might be ready for the Wind Ensemble, Wind Symphony or Jazz I.

Any questions? Please feel free to contact us at mchsbanddirector@gmail.com!