



MIRA COSTA HIGH SCHOOL

BAND COURSES REGISTRATION GUIDE

2020-2021



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 the **National Concert Band Festival or Carnegie Hall**, as a perennial finalist at **State Marching Band Championships, in the National Cherry Blossom Festival Parade**, 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** and fulfills the UC/CSU “F” Requirement as well as the Mira Costa Graduation Requirement of one year of Visual and Performing Arts coursework. 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 **a semester of PE Credit** to it’s members, and can be taken for four years to fulfill Mira Costa Graduation Requirement for PE. The Marching Band 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. Marching Clinics start in May in preparation for the Mid-May Assessment Camp (see www.miracostabands.com for details)

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 late May and early June** at MCHS and MBMS in class, as well as 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 mchsbandedirector@gmail.com!