



Winter Percussion Handbook

Vic Stauffenberg, Ensemble Director

I. Introduction

Being a success at any worthwhile undertaking requires focus, ambition, teamwork, and determination. The absence of any one of these things makes the learning process very difficult. There are an incredible variety of techniques and terminology to master. Even for veterans, there is always something new to learn. There are many levels of achievement to grow into, and that requires time and practice.

For those new to the indoor percussion activity, being in this ensemble requires things of its members that are not asked of other musical groups. For instance, the amount of coordination needed to put together a coordinated show requires increased time and dedication from the performers. Musical demands are also increased, as this activity is all about percussion and there is no band or color guard to take the judges' eyes off what we are doing. Further, the physical requirements of playing instruments while moving (for battery) are quite demanding. All percussion students come to realize this, and there is an adjustment phase that includes the building up of physical and mental stamina.

On the other hand, Winter Percussion offers its performers extraordinary opportunities for teamwork, camaraderie, and memorable experiences that students in other groups may not get. Yes, we work very hard, but by the time the season is over, you won't want it to end. If you ever need evidence of the amazing experiences students have in percussion, just ask.

II. Fundraising and Fees

Fundraising is imperative for the band program to provide a truly meaningful and educational experience for the students. It is critical that each and every family participate in fundraising efforts with the MRHS Band Boosters. We do recognize that fundraisers can be time consuming and a lot of work. If a family does not wish to participate in individual fundraisers, payment directly to the Band Boosters is an acceptable way to fulfill the needs of the program.

We continually strive to strike a balance between a reasonable budget and wanting to provide the absolute best experience for our students. Membership in this year's ensemble will cost \$425. This is due according to the following schedule:

Dec. 3rd (1st rehearsal) - \$85

Dec. 17th - \$85

Jan. 23rd - \$85

Feb. 20th - \$85

Mar. 20th - \$85

Boosters will be present at each of these rehearsals to collect checks for fees. Many of our families, however, choose to participate in our fundraising programs so that *little or no money comes out of pocket*. If monies exist in your fundraising account on the due date, those funds can be used to pay for the ensemble fees. Otherwise, fees must be paid on each due date, with checks made out to "MRHS Band Boosters".

It is *never* our desire to price anyone out of Winter Percussion. We have a variety of fundraisers in place to help families fulfill their financial obligation. If we need to defer or

spread out payments, or make other arrangements for financial assistance, please contact Mr. Stauffenberg or Mr. Evans directly. It is never okay, though, to simply not contribute financially to the success of the program—we cannot function that way.

Members who have not paid their fees, or made any other arrangements, by each due date will be given one “grace” rehearsal. After that, the student in question will not be allowed to rehearse or perform until the fees are paid. After three missed rehearsals for this reason, members will be dismissed from the ensemble.

III. Rehearsal Expectations

General expectations for rehearsals:

- Arrive early and be fully set up before start time. Rehearsals will begin AT the scheduled time, (6pm on evenings, 8am on Saturdays). Please remind your parents to get you here with enough time to do so.
- Have *all music, drill and other materials* through the entire season. This is simple to do, but the lack of it affects rehearsals and performance quality immensely.
- Be cooperative and professional. Our rehearsals will almost always be run the same way, and the rehearsal process will become habit quickly. Each member is expected to establish good attendance/transportation habits and effective rehearsal routines that will help us achieve our goals.
- Be still, quiet, and calm during verbal communication. Listen to comments, follow the instructions, and things will run very smoothly. Otherwise, a lot of time that we cannot get back will be wasted.
- Raise your hand to speak; no blurting out.
- Have an open mind, be patient, move fast, and work hard.
- Once something has been complimented, lock it into memory and perform it at that level or higher from that point forward.
- Always perform at a level in rehearsal that you would want to do in a performance. Form good habits, don't rehearse bad ones!

IV. Attendance

Attendance is the biggest make-or-break element for us. Without 100% attendance at every rehearsal, we can achieve only average results at best, and average isn't good enough. Any absence, legitimate or not, cuts our productivity in half, because we have to spend twice the time learning the material. In addition, members that are on the floor need to know their drill so that it does not endanger other members or themselves. Please keep this in mind as you plan out appointments and other potential conflicts.

Absences for legitimate illnesses or circumstances beyond your control should be communicated as soon as is possible. These instances should be limited to those that are absolutely necessary, such as: funerals, student illness with a doctor's excuse, traffic accident, etc.

Non-legitimate absences include: homework, parties, dinners out, dates, relationship issues, and social events that can be scheduled around our rehearsal schedule. School work is extremely

important, but winter percussion typically rehearses only two nights per week, and students must manage time well *outside of rehearsal* so their grades don't suffer. Students must be present at the rehearsal immediately preceding a performance or contest in order to participate. Students with three unexcused absences in the season will be written out of the show.

V. Calendar

The full Winter Percussion calendar is available online at sites.google.com/a/adams12.org/mrhs-winter-percussion. This calendar is as detailed and correct as we can make it at this time. Any changes made to the calendar will be announced as far in advance as possible. As we get closer to the competition season, more information will be added to those events on the calendar, such as exact performance times.

VI. Important Contacts

Vic Stauffenberg,
Ensemble Director
vstauffe@msudenver.edu
(303) 898-2419

David Evans,
Director of Bands
David.L.Evans@adams12.org

Danh Taylor,
Band Booster President
t.dtaylor@comcast.net

Contact Information

It is extremely important that we have accurate and up-to-date contact information so that we may communicate with both parents and students in the best possible way. Without this requested information, some students and parents may miss out on extremely valuable information.

Please visit:

tinyurl.com/WPEroster

to submit your contact information.

Please visit:

tinyurl.com/WPEcalendar

to view the season calendar.



Mountain Range High School Winter Percussion Contract

1. This document is designed to ensure that the student and their parents have read the Handbook, understand its contents, and agree to the participation requirements and financial commitment.
2. The student is required to sign and date the top portion, indicating their understanding of the requirements and agreeing to be fully committed to the ensemble for the whole season.
3. The student's parent or guardian is required to sign and date the bottom portion, indicating an understanding of the requirements, and agreeing to fully support their child's participation in the ensemble.

Part I. Student Portion

I, _____, have read the Mountain Range Winter Percussion Handbook with my parent or guardian. I understand its contents and will comply with the directives contained therein and follow directions to the best of my ability. I understand that Winter Percussion is a special and unique experience, and that participation is voluntary and a privilege. Upon signing this contract, I commit myself to:

- Following all MRHS and Adams 12 school district policies
- Maintaining perfect attendance
- Maintaining exemplary conduct
- Participation in fundraising to support the ensemble and to meet my fundraising obligation, with the understanding that failure to do so will lead to being "benched" and/or removal from the ensemble
- Maintaining good communication with the instructors in emergencies

Student Signature

Date

Part II. Parent/Guardian Portion

I, _____, as Parent/Guardian of _____, have read the Mountain Range Winter Percussion Handbook with my student, understand its contents, and fully support my student's participation in the group throughout the season. I understand the time requirements and financial commitment. Upon signing this contract, I commit myself to:

- Following all MRHS and Adams 12 school district policies.
- Ensuring and supporting my student's attendance at all ensemble functions
- Ensuring that my student's ensemble fees are paid on time, with the understanding that failure to do so will lead to my student being "benched" and/or removed from the ensemble
- Maintaining good communication with the instructors in the event of emergencies and illnesses

Parent Signature

Date