



**- 2023-2024 -
INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC
HANDBOOK**

Wind Ensemble
Symphonic Band
Chamber Orchestra
String Orchestra
Symphony Orchestra
Jazz Ensemble
Marching Band
Color Guard
Spartan Sound
Winter Percussion
Winter Guard

MVHS Instrumental Music
3535 Truman Avenue
Mountain View, CA 94040

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<i>due Thursday, August 24th (Back to School Night)</i>	



WELCOME!

The Mountain View High School Instrumental Music Department is dedicated to providing outstanding musical opportunities to its students while helping them grow into responsible, mature adults. To make these experiences successful, we require discipline, organization, and commitment to the program. Being a part of the Instrumental Music program is a privilege, and students will be expected to help serve as role models for the school. As a result of our high expectations, music students will develop valuable life skills such as a positive self-image, time management skills, confidence, poise, responsibility, and loyalty. And of course, they will also develop the musical abilities needed to be a successful musician.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC STAFF

Jo Smith-Nilsson (she/her) - Instrumental Music Director - johanna.nilsson@mvla.net

Jo is entering her second year as Instrumental Music Director at MVHS. She graduated in 2014 from Long Island University's Global College with a BA in Global Studies, in 2016 from San José State's music credential program, and in 2018 from San Francisco University with an MA in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages. She will be splitting her time between MVHS and LAHS. At MVHS she will be teaching String Orchestra, Spartan Sound, and Jazz Ensemble.

Ricky Alegria - Instrumental Music Director - ricky.alegria@mvla.net

Mr. Alegria (Mr. A) is in his fourth year at Mountain View High. He earned a BA in Music Education and Percussion Performance from Illinois State University. He completed his MA in Wind Band Conducting from Sam Houston State University. Prior to coming to Mountain View, Mr. A taught at Murphy Middle School (San Jose), Sobrato High School (Morgan Hill), and Monta Vista High School (Cupertino). Mr. A will be teaching Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Chamber Orchestra, Marching Band, and String Orchestra.

STAYING CONNECTED

Instrumental Music Website: <http://www.mvspartanmusic.net/>

Calendar: <http://www.mvspartanmusic.net/calendar>

Instagram: @mvspartanmusic

Photo sharing: <https://mvspartanmusic.smugmug.com>

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

The MVHS Instrumental Music Program runs nearly a dozen courses during the school year, offering students a wide range of music and performance opportunities. Some students participate in one course, while many participate in multiple courses each year.

YEAR-LONG COURSES

String Orchestra - String Orchestra is an intermediate ensemble designed for students who play traditional orchestral string instruments (Violin, Viola, Cello, Bass, Harp). The Orchestra performs as a group for several concerts and festivals a year. This year the String Orchestra is split across two periods – the freshman class serves as an introduction to the high school instrumental music program, and another for upperclassmen. This is a year-long course.

Chamber Orchestra - The Chamber Orchestra represents our advanced String musicians. This group typically travels every two to three years. In 2021, the Chamber Orchestra traveled to Hawaii. This year the Chamber Orchestra will be traveling to Chicago! *Audition and Director consent is required for Chamber Orchestra. This is not typically a course for freshmen.* This is a year-long course.

Symphonic Band - The MVHS Symphonic Band is designed as both a performing class and a training ensemble. The band performs as a group for several concerts and festivals. This course is designed for intermediate musicians, however, musicians of all levels are welcome to join. Older students may and are encouraged to take this course as leaders, or to develop skills on secondary instruments. This is a year-long course.

Wind Ensemble - The MVHS Wind Ensemble is designed as an advanced performance course for musicians playing appropriate wind band instruments. All genres of traditional and contemporary music are studied and performed at several concerts and festivals during the year. This group typically travels every two to three years. This year the Chamber Orchestra will be traveling to Chicago! *Audition and Director consent is required for Wind Ensemble. This is not typically a course for freshmen.* This is a year-long course.

SINGLE-SEMESTER COURSES

Symphony Orchestra - This co-curricular ensemble brings together strings, winds, and percussion as a full orchestra. This class generally meets once a week immediately following 7th Period during the Spring semester and concentrates on large symphonic works ranging from classical to contemporary. *Teacher recommendation or audition is required.*

Marching Band and **Color Guard** (Auxiliary Unit) - This ensemble meets August-November and performs at many local competitions beginning in October. Attendance at all rehearsals and performances is required. Students are expected to attend a summer Band Camp preceding the beginning of school. Because most activities associated with Marching Band occur during the first quarter, students are encouraged to concurrently enroll in another, year-long musical group such as Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble, Jazz Ensemble, or Orchestra.

Winter Auxiliary (Percussion and Guard) - Our two Winter groups are an opportunity for students to continue improving and performing through the second semester. Each group rehearses separately and performs at several local competitions February through April. Participation in Winter Auxiliary is open to everyone, pending auditions.

OTHER PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

“Spartan Sound” (Pep Band) - Spartan Sound performs at home athletic and community events. Practices are typically held on Friday afternoons. All interested students are encouraged to participate. While voluntary, attendance at rehearsals and performances is expected.

Jazz Ensemble - *Enrollment is by audition only* and typically includes the following instruments: saxophone, trumpet, trombone, piano, bass, guitar, and drums. The Jazz Ensemble serves intermediate and advanced players. This class meets during 8th period, second semester (exact time TBA). *Audition and director consent is required for participation in this extracurricular activity.*

COURSE CALENDAR

Semester	Fall Semester		Spring Semester	
Quarter	1st Qtr Aug 10-Oct 11* *extends beyond 1st Qtr to mid-Nov	2nd Qtr Oct 16* - Dec 21 *starts after MB in mid-Nov	3rd Qtr Jan 10 - Mar 22	4th Qtr Mar 26 - Jun 6
School Day (Periods 1-7)	String Orchestra (2nd and 4th periods, Nilsson & Alegria) Wind Ensemble (3rd period, Alegria) Chamber Orchestra (6th period, Alegria) Symphonic Band (7th period, Alegria)			
After School	Marching Band and Color Guard Auxiliary Mon 4:00-6:30 Thurs 5:00-8:00 Fri FB games: 9/1, 9/8, 10/6		Symphony Orchestra Tues/Thurs 4:00-6:00	
	Spartan Sound Rehearsal schedule TBD Fri FB games: 9/1, 9/8, 9/15, 10/6, 10/20 (11/10, 11/17 if we make playoffs) Turkey Trot: 11/23		Winter Auxiliary - Percussion & Guard (Rehearsal/Performance Schedule TBD)	
Weekends	Marching Band and Color Guard Auxiliary Saturday 9:00-4:00		Winter Auxiliary - Percussion & Guard (Rehearsal/Performance Schedule TBD)	
Travel	Wind Ensemble and Chamber Orchestra typically travel every few years to adjudicated music festivals, such as the Pacific Basin Music Festival in Hawaii.			
Summer	Marching Band and Color Guard Auxiliary strongly encourage attendance at a Summer Band Camp. This year it is 7/24-7/28.			

COURSE CREDIT & PREREQ OVERVIEW

Course	Grades	Prerequisites	Graduation requirements * HS = high school graduation Req. * UC = Univ. of Calif. Req. (a-g) * CSU = Calif. State Univ. Req. (a-g)	# Units toward grad.
String Orchestra	9-12	Suggested: Intermediate instrumental proficiency.	HS: Fine Art UC and CSU: f or g requirement	10
Chamber Orchestra (Ensemble)	10-12	Audition or Director approval.	HS: Fine Art UC and CSU: f or g requirement	10
Symphonic Band	9-12	Suggested: Beginning to Intermediate instrumental proficiency.	HS: Fine Art UC and CSU: f or g requirement	10
Wind Ensemble	10-12	Audition or Director approval required.	HS: Fine Art UC and CSU: f or g requirement	10
Jazz Ensemble	9-12	Audition or Director approval required.	HS: Fine Art UC and CSU: f or g requirement	<i>More details coming</i>
Symphony Orchestra	9-12	Teacher recommendation or audition. Advanced instrumental proficiency.	HS: Elective UC and CSU: n/a	5
Marching Band and Color Guard	9-12	Basic instrument proficiency. Color Guard does not require instrument proficiency.	HS: Fine Art UC and CSU: n/a <i>Participation in MB during grades 10-12 counts towards a PE Exemption. See instructors for more details.</i>	5
Winter Auxiliary - Winter Percussion	9-12	Suggested: Prior experience in Marching Band	HS: Elective UC and CSU: n/a	zero
Winter Auxiliary - Winter Guard	9-12	Suggested: Prior experience in Color Guard	HS: Elective UC and CSU: n/a	zero
Pep Band	9-12	Intermediate instrument proficiency	HS, UC and CSU: n/a	zero

MUSIC COUNCIL

Music Council is the Instrumental Music Department's governing student board and is affiliated with the MVHS Associated Student Body (ASB). The student representatives on the Music Council are elected by their fellow music students. They help formulate policies and activities for all Instrumental Music groups. They budget funds collected via student fundraisers and Fair Share contributions (all Charms payments go into Music Council's ASB account), allocating funds for instrument repair, new music stands, chairs, instruments, food, educational supplies, musical scores, percussion supplies, Band Bash, String Fling, awards and recognition, and the social events that help cement ties and strengthen the department. These student volunteers' leadership is valued by the entire department. While helping to make the tough financial decisions, they develop skills that will serve them well throughout their lives.

CONCERT ATTIRE

Expectations for concert attire will be discussed with students in class. For String Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra, Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble, and Symphony Orchestra this means:

Option 1: A black dress or black skirt/slacks and black top. Skirts should be at least knee length *while seated*. Closed-toe black shoes are required.

Option 2: Black pants, black coat, white shirt with black tie (or bowtie), black socks, and black dress shoes. This combination should look like a tuxedo from the audience.

Option 3: Black dress shirt, black dress pants, black socks, and black dress shoes.

In all cases, the following articles of clothing are not acceptable: leggings, sweatpants, jeans, shorts, t-shirts, hoodies, flip flops, or sneakers. Any other questions should be directed to section leaders. *Jazz Ensemble may have more flexible dress requirements which will be discussed in class.*



ATTENDANCE POLICY

- Student attendance in appropriate concert attire is *required* at all concerts, competitions, festivals, rehearsals, and graduation (Band & Orchestra). Failure to attend may affect a student's final grade.
- Schedule conflicts must be brought to the attention of section leaders as well as to the Directors via email *at least* a week in advance or as soon as the conflict is known.
- When a student's absence creates a performance problem for the group, the student must attempt to find a suitable substitute.
- In cases where conflicts occur between the music program and a student's other school activities, students must notify each teacher (or coach) *as soon as possible* so a compromise can be discussed and the conflict resolved. Parent participation in this procedure is helpful but ultimately it is up to each student to take the responsibility for managing conflicts. Remember: Communication is key!
- In case of illness, students should arrange to have any music, instruments, or other equipment that they share brought to school. An email to your teacher will be appreciated on or near performance days!
- Concerts are the equivalent to finals in a music course. Although written finals may also be given in class, your attendance at our concerts is the culmination of the musical progress you have achieved during the semester.
- Event dates, performance times, call times and locations are announced in class and posted at: <http://www.mvspartanmusic.net/calendar> (same calendar mentioned in the Essential Information Resources section above)

SCHOOL INSTRUMENTS

Mountain View High School has several school-owned instruments that current students of the program can use. These instruments are for current students only and depend on current inventory. All students who use a school instrument must fill out an **Instrument Use Agreement** each year. We also request a \$100 donation to help cover the cost of regular wear and tear, maintenance, and cleaning. At the end of the season all instruments must be returned and will be inspected. Any damage (outside of usual wear and tear) will be evaluated at this point.

Students are not permitted to borrow or use other instruments with permission from the directors. This includes school-owned and personal instruments.

WHAT IS THE IMPA?

The IMPA (Instrumental Music Parents Association) is the booster organization for all of the Instrumental Music programs. The purpose of the IMPA is to provide support to ALL of the various Instrumental Music programs. This support includes volunteer hours at many music activities and supplemental funding provided largely through parent donations. This funds approximately half of the Instrumental Music Department's discretionary spending each year and provides additional clinicians (musical specialists) who work with the orchestras, percussion, color guard, and bands.

There are many opportunities for volunteering with the IMPA - small one-time jobs like selling food at an event or filing orchestra music in Packard Hall, and larger jobs like organizing one of our events or serving on one of our committees. There is plenty to do and it's a great way to stay in touch with this part of your student's school life.

The IMPA parents raise funds each year through one fundraiser - the IMPA Direct Appeal - which raises 90% of the IMPA's funding. Please see the more complete description of the Direct Appeal at <https://www.mvspartanmusic.net/impa-direct-appeal>. Here you will see a letter from the IMPA President about the "Direct Appeal" and you can make an immediate donation online using the Paypal "Donate" button.

Your donations to the IMPA are tax deductible and may qualify for corporate matching gift funds from your employer. Your volunteer hours with the IMPA may qualify for corporate volunteer matching grant programs (e.g. Google, Apple, Intel). The IMPA also runs several annual social events at which our musicians perform. These events give our students additional performance opportunities, help build community across the music program, and raise some additional funds.

All parents of music students are automatically part of the IMPA and all are invited to attend our monthly Music Parent meetings. We typically meet on the first Tuesday of each month via Zoom from 7:00 PM—8:00 PM. All IMPA meetings are posted to the MVHS Instrumental Music calendar: <http://www.mvspartanmusic.net/calendar>

The MVHS Instrumental Music Program would not be what it is without the engagement of many parents. We encourage you to get involved in any way you can. Please don't hesitate to contact the IMPA President, Melissa Jankowski at maxwellsmadre@gmail.com if you have any questions about how to get involved.

See our website at <https://www.mvspartanmusic.net/volunteering>

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION RESOURCES

All parents and students should subscribe to or refer to the following information sources for the most up-to-date information about the MVHS Music Program (they are updated on a daily basis).

1. Please bookmark the page for the Instrumental Music and IMPA website, <https://www.mvspartanmusic.net>. You can find the **Music Department Calendar** as well as information on the music program, forms, and useful resources.
2. For the full Performing Arts Department calendar of events (including Choir, Dance, and Theater), please go to: <https://mvhs.mvla.net/Academics/Department-Home-Page/Performing-Arts/index.html>

HOW CAN I HELP?

While there are plenty of hands-on volunteer opportunities in Instrumental Music, there are some very simple ways that all families can help. These require a few minutes of setup and have the potential to earn BIG rewards...

Matching Corporate Gifts: If your company has a Matching Gift program (for monetary donations or volunteer hours), please track your volunteer hours and submit your donations and hours for corporate matching gifts! Retirees and employees of many employers in Silicon Valley qualify for these programs. If you need help, please check the appropriate box on the acknowledgement sheet below. Any time you make a matching donation, please email the Directors so that we can help our school bookkeeper track the donation.

West Valley Music: Located at 300 W. El Camino Real in Mountain View, West Valley Music will give 5% of your purchases back to the MVHS Music program. Simply tell the clerk as you check out that you want the school rebate to go to MVHS.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC EVENTS 23-24

For the most current information, check the calendar at <http://www.mvspartanmusic.net/calendar>

JULY

24-28 Band Camp (MB and Color Guard only)

AUGUST

30 Band "Informance" 7pm

31 Orchestra "Informance" 7pm

SEPTEMBER

1 MB Football Game vs Live Oak

5 IMPA Meeting 7pm

8 MB Football Game vs Leigh

15 MB Homecoming Parade

25 PB Football Game vs King's Academy

OCTOBER

3 IMPA Meeting 7pm

6 MB Football Game vs Burlingame

17 Fall Bands Concert 7pm @MVHS

18 Fall Orchestras Concert 7pm @LAHS

20 PB Football Game vs Menlo-Atherton

21 MB Competition - Gilroy

27 MB Middle School Tour

28 MB Community Thank You

NOVEMBER

4 MB Competition - Independence

7 IMPA Meeting 7pm

11 MB Competition - Logan

16 MB Awards Banquet

26 MB Festival of Lights Parade

30 Winter Chamber Concert 7pm

DECEMBER

5 String Camp Parents 6pm/IMPA 7 pm

14 Holiday Concert 7pm

JANUARY

(IMPA meeting TBA in January)

12-16 String Camp

31 String Fling 7pm

FEBRUARY

1 Band Bash 7pm

6 IMPA Meeting 7pm

10 Homestead Festival (String Orchestra)

MARCH

5 Chicago Parent Meeting 6pm/IMPA 7pm

7-9 Sonoma Festival

14-17 Spring Musical

18-22 Adv. Ensemble Auditions

28 Spring Concert 7pm

APRIL

2 IMPA Meeting 7pm

4-8 Chicago Tour

18 Spring Chamber Concert 7pm

MAY

7 IMPA Meeting 7pm

20-21 Instrumental Concerts 7pm

JUNE

6 Graduation

PARENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Thank you for taking the time to read our Handbook. We look forward to a great 2023-24 school year!

Please indicate below that you and your student(s) have read and followed up on the information it contains. Please print and sign this page and have your student return it to their teacher by **Thursday, August 24th**.

Acknowledgements

- My student and I have read the rules and guidelines for music students in this handbook and confirm my student understands them and will follow them, and will contact one of the music directors to clarify anything they do not understand.
- I have read the IMPA description in this handbook and visited the website <https://www.mvspartanmusic.net>

I will make a tax deductible donation to the IMPA Direct Appeal Fundraiser

<https://www.mvspartanmusic.net/impa-direct-appeal>:

- the recommended donation of \$400 per family
- another amount \$ _____
- I would like an IMPA representative to contact me about my donation
- I will not donate to the 2023-24 IMPA Direct Appeal at this time

Corporate Matching Opportunities

- I will check if my donation to the IMPA of money or volunteer time qualify for a matching gift from my or my spouse's employer, and will submit my request for corporate match to "Mountain View High School Band Parents Association"
- My gift doesn't qualify for a corporate match.
- Please contact me – I need more info about corporate matching gifts.

Student Name(s) _____	Parent email _____
Parent Name(s) _____	Parent phone _____
Parent Signature _____	Date _____

STUDENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Thank you for taking the time to read our Handbook. We look forward to a great 2023-24 school year!

Please indicate below that you and your guardian(s) have read and followed up on the information it contains. Please print and sign this page and return it *along with the Parent Acknowledgement* to Packard by **Thursday, August 24th**.

Acknowledgements

My guardian(s) and I have read the rules and guidelines for music students in this handbook. I confirm that I have understood and will commit to following all of the guidelines listed in this handbook.

Student Name _____	Student email _____
Student Signature _____	Student phone _____