

Your Director:

My name is Joe Massaro. Fall, 2005, was my first year here at Arroyo High School, and I've been teaching high school since 1988. I am experienced in teaching: Jazz Band, Marching Band (field and street), Concert Bands, Color Guard, Drumline, Orchestra, Music Theory, Piano, Musical Theatre, and world travel, just to name a few areas. I am also a member of S.C.S.B.O.A., I.A.J.E., M.E.N.C and other educational organizations. I have spent my entire career since high school conducting, writing and arranging music for academic and professional organizations across the country. I am very experienced at knowing what a musical ensemble requires to be successful. My educational objective is to produce well-balanced responsible adults, and the best way I know to achieve this goal is through a Championship Band and Color Guard!

Activities

This year we will be participating in many different activities. In the first semester, we will be performing in several field tournaments and parades, all home football games, and a number of concerts and community events. The Jazz Band will perform at select home basketball games and concerts. Second semester we offer Music Festivals for Wind Ensemble, Concert Band, Jazz Ensemble, and indoor competitions for Winter Drumline and Winterguard, the Sport of the Arts. Each Spring, an additional tour is planned for members who qualify to be placed in our top ensembles. This requires additional dedication, commitment and maturity. All members are encouraged to audition each year for these groups. (The tour fee is not included in the band camp donation).

Other BAC activities will include multiple fund-raising drives, Fireworks Booth, Rose Parade float decorating, car washes, restaurant nights, 8th grade band night, potlucks, performance trips (tour), specialty invitational performances and whatever else we can dream up.

Competition

In our culture, music is often misrepresented from a strictly competitive point of view. It is treated like a sporting event, where groups are always judged on how they compare to other groups. We feel that music is an art, and everyone has the right to express him/herself, and to contribute to the maximum of his or her capabilities. As long as we all agree on the basic concepts, we all succeed.

Although we will be doing many competitions, the major emphasis will be on doing our best as a group and improving from performance to performance. If it so happens that we win the top award, then that is great! However, our goal is to improve each performance. Performing our best *should* be its own reward regardless of the scoring outcome.

Standards of Behavior

Discipline:

The importance of well-defined discipline in a performing group should not be underestimated. Because of the size and performance level of the group, group discipline must be established from the beginning.

Self-discipline is the **best** form of discipline. If the discipline problem (e.g. talking during rehearsal) is controlled by the individual who tends to talk too much, then it never becomes a group problem. When something does become a group problem, **it will be dealt with in a group manner**. Look to your leadership regarding rules of behavior and conduct.

Commitment/Dedication:

After years of teaching/directing, I have discovered the secret to success in music. It really is not a secret if you think about it, and it goes like this:

“The group that sounds and looks the best, and wins the most, is the group that is willing to work the hardest and the smartest.”

Sounds easy, doesn't it? It is a lot easier said than done. This also includes commitment to the program, and dedication to the *common* goal: **‘To achieve excellence through pride, dedication, hard work and a touch of class’**. Sound familiar. That is our slogan.

Attendance:

Consistent rehearsal attendance is a critical part of a successful program. The group will work hard and learn a lot at each rehearsal, and if someone is not there to learn, we will have to re-learn and re-rehearse. This is a terrible waste of time, and will not be accepted. If you miss rehearsals the week of a performance, you will not be allowed to perform (although you must attend) and this will be counted as an excused performance absence. Two excused absences equal one unexcused absence.

Performance attendance is mandatory, and missing performances will not be tolerated. If you have **one** unexcused absence from a performance, you will forfeit your letter, be given an official warning and be placed on ‘membership probation’. If you have two unexcused absences from performances, you will be removed from the performance group. You are expected to schedule your time commitments responsibly so that this never happens.

In order to be excused from a scheduled event, you must notify the Director two weeks in advance, in writing! It is up to the Director's discretion as to whether the excuse is accepted. Usually a compromise will have to be worked out. Never expect to be excused from an event for any reason. If you miss any event, you automatically forfeit the points you would have received for that day. The difference is that it does not count towards an unexcused absence which would have lead to dismissal.

Exceptions: Sudden illness or a death in the immediate family and notification from the parents must be in writing. Doctor's appointments, work schedules, and other commitments should be made at times that do not conflict with band events, so they will never constitute an excuse (that is what free days are for).

KNIGHTS BAND AND COLOR GUARD CODE OF CONDUCT:

1. Every member will always conduct themselves in a manner appropriate to a BAC member: while practicing, performing, during class, or anytime while representing the Arroyo KNIGHTS BAND AND COLOR GUARD.
2. All members will maintain a 2.0 grade point average or higher.
3. Truancy, fighting, or any discipline problem in school is unacceptable for a BAC member and will result in a warning and probation. It is highly likely that you will be dismissed from the program. There is a zero tolerance for bullying, hazing, or harassment of anyone by any member.
4. Uniforms, equipment, band facilities, and the school facility will be treated with respect, pride, and care at all times. All parts of your uniform and equipment will be kept neat, clean, and in complete working order. No one outside of the group is allowed to wear any part of your uniform. **No one** will play an instrument or tamper with equipment that is not issued to them.
5. **There will be no eating, drinking or chewing in the band room, in rehearsal or while in uniform. Only the Director may lift this restriction.**
6. Smoking, drinking of alcohol or abuse of any drugs will not be tolerated in or around the band program and its members. You will be asked to leave the program if I hear of this from anyone.
7. No public use of profanity is allowed at any time, especially when in uniform.
8. No side talking during rehearsal. No talking whatsoever during a performance.
9. If you borrow it, put it back without having to be told. Return it without having being told.
10. If you used it, put it away properly and make sure it is clean.
11. If it is not yours, leave it alone. Notify the owner or the responsible party.
12. Always treat others as you would want to be treated yourself – with respect.
13. When in uniform, or in the band room area, there will be no PDAs (public display of affection): it is inappropriate in a group environment and unprofessional.

Please remember, a Band is derived from the traditions of a military organization. All rules of conduct are military in style by nature. All rules and regulations will be strictly enforced and any infractions will be dealt with by the Director and site administrator. (Infractions can be dealt with by administrative referral, performance probation/suspension, and denial of letter and/or removal from performance group.)

School Equipment: All of the school equipment/uniforms will be of the best quality and repair available, and must be care for appropriately. All school instruments/uniforms will be inspected before being checked out to you at the beginning of your membership, or if you change instruments/uniforms. It will then be inspected again at the end of the term of use. You will be held financially responsible for any and all damage, including dents, major scratches, missing parts, etc. Please always care for your equipment/uniforms. Well-maintained equipment is a 'competitive edge'. IF you broke it or damaged it, fix or replace it. Simple.

Concert Dress Code: Boys will dress in formal concert black. This requires either a tuxedo or a black men's suit with a white shirt. Of course, black socks and dress shoes are a part of the outfit. Girls will dress in formal concert black. This requires either a formal black dress long enough to cover your knees when seated, or a black women's professional pant suit with white shirt and black jacket. Of course, black dress shoes are a part of the outfit. Hair and make-up should be appropriate for the event.

Grading: As this a curricular class, students receive a grade for their participation in the BAC. Grading will be done on a point system, and grades will be assigned by percentage. Points are given/assigned on the following basis:

1. Attendance points are given for: daily class, after school rehearsals, and all performances and events. You will be docked points (or portions of points) for being late or leaving early: 75%
2. Testing of written and performance knowledge is also a component of each semester grade: 25%

Note: Points will be totaled for each grading period, and the grade earned will be assigned. Grades are earned, not given.

Academic Eligibility

As a co-curricular activity the BAC member is required to meet district eligibility guidelines. This means in order to participate in after school competitive performances, the member must have a minimum of 2.0 GPA and not more than two "U's" in citizenship make eligibility.

Eligibility is checked every 6 week progress report/report card. If the member does not meet the academic standards, they are deemed 'ineligible'. The ineligible member will not be allowed in compete in any activity outside of class time nor attend any event during the regular school day. However, you must attend the competition to not sacrifice all your points and to remind you what you are missing. Members who are not up-to-date on donations will also not be allowed to participate in bus trips. Please make sure your donations are turned in.

This will, of course, affect the member's ability to letter, and will also affect the member's grade, as he/she cannot participate and earn full

points. This is a district policy and will be strictly enforced. It is ultimately the parents' and students' responsibility to monitor the students' academic progress. All parents must be registered on SCHOOL LOOP and be checking student's assignments and grades weekly. If a student needs assistance in raising a grade, please email me at KnightMusic55@aol.com, and we will provide that support for our BAC members.

School Letter:

As a member of a performing group of the Arroyo Band and Color Guard, you will be eligible to receive a school letter after completion of four full semesters of a primary ensemble*. This letter is the same earned by athletic teams and can be worn on a band or letterman's jacket.

To earn this letter, you must be a member in good standing (see Academic Eligibility), and participate in all performances (see Attendance section for exceptions) for two full years (4 semesters). This does include attendance in all extra rehearsals and summer program (if applicable).

*Jazz, Piano, Music Theory, Percussion Tech (Indoor Drumline) and Beginning Instruments are **not** primary ensembles.

BAND AND COLOR GUARD COUNCIL:

The Band Council/Leadership is a group of BAC members that are *elected* by the BAC members for the purpose of leadership. In the case of Captains and Drum Majors, they are *chosen by audition*.

The Band Council's responsibility will be to hold weekly meetings to organize and administrate all BAC social activities, potlucks, fundraisers, Spring Awards Banquet, and make policy/discipline decisions, as deemed by the Director. The council members will be encouraged to attend a leadership training camp over the summer.

The Band Council offices are as follows:

President

Preferably a senior, from any section, should hold this position. This student is the top leader chosen by the students, and is the highest student authority, except in marching rehearsal when the highest authority is the Drum Major(s). The President runs the BAC Council meeting, makes the final BAC Council decisions, and is responsible for all BAC Council activities. The President will represent the BAC as a club on campus at all ASB and Booster meetings and at community functions.

Vice President

Preferably a senior, from any section, should hold this position. The Vice President is nominated and then voted on and chosen by the students. The Vice President assists the President and, in the absence of the President, may run the BAC Council meeting or attend club meetings in place of the President.

Secretary

Any member can hold this position. This person is responsible for all communications and records of the BAC. It is the Secretary's responsibility to keep records of all decisions made by the BAC Council at the weekly meetings. This person will also be responsible for writing all correspondence for the BAC Council. The Secretary is also required to keep track of attendance/participation points and to keep the attendance book up-to-date.

Drum Majors

Any member in the band, who has at least one year of experience in the program, may audition for this position. The auditions are held during the month of May. The Drum Major is the conductor and disciplinary leader of the BAC in all marching performances. The Drum Major receives instructions solely from the Director or staff and relays them to the unit. The Major has total authority in the marching rehearsal or performance. The Drum Major must re-audition every year. *(Drum Major duties are assigned based on talent.)*

Drum Captain

Any Percussion member, that has at least one year in the program, is eligible for this position. This position is selected by audition by the percussion instructors and the Director. The Captain is in charge of the Drumline unit as a whole, and will be assisted by section leaders. The Captain will also represent the Drumline in the BAC Council. The primary responsibility is to facilitate communication to your unit and follow through with directions from the Director and staff.

Color Guard Captain

A Color Guard member, that has at least one year in the program, is eligible for this position. The Captain is chosen by audition or appointment of Directors. The Color Guard Captain is in charge of the Color Guard unit as a whole, and will be assisted by Co-Captains. The Captain will also represent the Color Guard on the BAC Council. Your primary responsibility is to facilitate communication to your unit and follow through with directions from your Directors and staff.

Librarians

These students are voted into office by the BAC members. Their jobs are to organize, pass out, collect and keep accounting of all music and maintain the music library in meticulous condition. Any copying needs should be carried out in a timely manner by the librarians.

Quartermasters

These students are voted into office by the BAC members. Their job responsibilities involve organizing, sizing, checking out and re-collecting the uniforms each year. They are also responsible to let the director know of repairs and replacements needed. They are expected to keep the uniform room in impeccable military organization and presentation.

Equipment Managers

These students are voted into office by BAC members and are responsible for the organization and security of all loading, packing and unloading of instruments and equipment any time we are on the road. This will ensure that our equipment is safe and complete at every performance. If you are asked by an equipment manager to help in this process, you are expected to comply. Noncompliance will be cause for cause for disciplinary action.

Historians

Historian is an appointed position. The duties are to document the year's activities and to compile all souvenirs, photos, programs, video and various footages into a presentation for the annual awards banquet in May or June. DVDs, and CDs should be available to the BAC members to purchase as a keepsake at year's end. The historians work with our Webmaster to ensure that our website has all information updated and current.

Section Leaders

The Section Leader is selected by audition and interview, and one Section Leader is chosen from each section with more than 4 members. These students are selected by the Director each year, based on experience and maturity. Their primary jobs are to keep the section informed of decisions made at BAC Council meetings, maintain attendance and knowledge as to the whereabouts of their section members, and make sure all sections members are receiving the appropriate coaching to raise their musical performance level.

All of these positions are important to the Band and Color Guard, and are excellent opportunities for the student to learn leadership skills and earn extra grade points. Band and Color Guard Council positions are chosen each year. ***This looks great on a college application!!!!***

Band Section Seating

Each section player will be assigned a part and a seat, in order of playing proficiency, which will be assigned by the Director.

If the musician would like to improve his/her seat or part assignment, he/she may 'challenge' the person immediately above their seat.

Challenge:

The procedure for Challenge is as follows:

1. The Challenger informs the Director, and then together, they inform the person to be challenged.
2. Both parties have one week to prepare a piece of music that the Director chooses.
3. After one week, both parties will be heard by the band via a blind audition process.
4. Both people play a selection chosen by the Director; the BAC does not know who is playing.
5. The band votes on which performance is best.
6. The seat is awarded to the musician with the highest votes. In the event of a tie, the seat will not change.
7. A period of one month must pass before either person may re-challenge.

Transportation Policy

As per the district's transportation policy, every BAC member must be transported to and from performances in district vehicles. This means that if you are going to perform with the group, you must ride the bus to and from the performance location and return to school to help unload and store all equipment. You must receive athletic clearance through the Activities Office to be eligible to ride the Band bus. See officers and section leaders if you have questions about this process.

There are times during the second semester when groups are asked to travel to events in personal cars. If you parents are to transport students, they must be approved by the district. In order to be approved, the drive must submit a proof of insurance, a copy of their DMV record, and a copy of their driver's license. Get a form from the Band Director to begin that process. Clearance has to be done before they can drive.

The only exception to these rules is if the performance is within the district boundaries and is authorized by the Director. No exceptions! No student may drive other students to and/or from performances at any time.

Staff

A staff member is an adult who is hired by the School District and/or booster club to assist the Director in teaching a specialized squad or section. At this time our staff includes;

- Color Guard Instructors
- Percussion Instructors
- Movement/Marching/Visual Instructors
- Professional Instrument Coaches
- Drill Writers

Instructors are needed with large championship groups, and will be treated with the respect with which you would treat the band director. If you ever have a problem with a staff member, DO NOT take it up with them. See the band director immediately and let him handle it.

COSTS FOR THE MEMBER:

BAND AND COLOR GUARD Member Shirt:

After making 3 months of donations, each BAC member will receive a BAC member shirt. The BAC Council, with the approval of the Director, has chosen the color and style. These garments will be worn at BAC activities such as away games, after performances, etc.

Band Shoes:

All members of the band (horn line and drum line) will be asked to *purchase* a pair of uniform band shoes. They are called “Drillmasters”. They will be black leather and will be worn with the issued uniform. We will be purchasing them as a group, so you will only have to pay for the shoe and tax (shipping will not be charged). Returning members do not have to purchase new shoes if their old ones are in good condition. Shoes are the personal property of the members.

Color Guard members and Drumline members will have their own shoes during their competitive seasons. The style/color will be determined by the directors. Members will purchase the shoes which will be ordered by the BAC. These shoes will be the personal property of the members.

Recommended Mouthpieces:

It is not required that a new member buy a new mouthpiece upon joining the band, but most horns are sold with low quality mouthpieces, and you would certainly notice the difference in your sound and response of your instrument. Following is a chart for recommended mouthpieces:

Instrument	Brand/Size
Clarinet	Van Doren B45, 5RV Lyre or Lurie Premium
Saxophones	Selmer S80C* or comparable
French Horn	Schilke 31C2
Trumpet	Bach 3C – 7C (no Jet- Tone ever!)
Trombone/Baritone	Bach 6 ½ AL, Schilke 5GW or comparable
Sousaphone/Tuba	Marcinkiewicz N4, ABI Belmonte Green label

Additional Garments:

Each member is responsible to purchase (either through the school, boosters or independently), other articles of clothing for use during Band and Color Guard activities. These articles differ for band and color guard members, so they are specified on cost sheets.

Program Costs

The costs of the program are taken care of through individual donations to cover the cost of Band Camp. All students in BAC are expected to donate to cover the annual \$600 cost per person. The annual donation may be paid off in monthly \$60 installments beginning in June. Donations must be completed by April 1st. Most students choose to fundraise their donations and seem to be able to cover the amount each year with few problems. The important thing to remember is it is the responsibility of the BAC member to make sure their account is current each month. Every month a donation is applied to accounts either through fundraising, sponsorships or donation by cash or check. Checks are made payable to "Arroyo Band". Checks returned for insufficient funds must be cleared by donations in cash only and may include a service charge from the bank. Members are encouraged to fundraise or seek sponsorship from family, friends, neighbors or companies that they have a relationship with.

Refunds:

Refunds will only be granted for garments or equipment not yet purchased at the time of the refund request. If it has already been ordered, you must complete payment for it. Donations will be refunded at the discretion of the BAC Council and the Director on a pro-rated basis. Student ineligibility does not constitute a viable reason for refunds.

During the student's senior year, any remaining balance in their account maybe utilized for senior expenses related to band (banquet, tour, etc.). Any amounts not requested will be transferred to the Arroyo Band and Color Guard Scholarship as of July 1st following the student's senior year.

Rehearsal Dress

BAND: For marching rehearsals, all band members should wear tennis shoes or athletic shoes with socks. Sand and flip-flops are never allowed. They should also have clothing that is appropriate for the weather (i.e. cool, light clothing for the summer; warm, workable clothing for the winter and evenings). It is also recommended that students bring sun protection (sun block, hats, etc.) for outside rehearsals. Water in a personal thermos is also required for all outdoor rehearsals. *Bottled water will NOT be sufficient for outdoor rehearsals.*

COLOR GUARD: Color Guard members are required to dress out for class during the school day. There are facilities with lockers available where members may change. For marching rehearsals, all color guard members should wear tennis shoes or dance shoes. They should also have clothing that is appropriate for the weather and movement (i.e. cool, light clothing for summer; warm, workable clothing for winter). No one will be excused from practice due to inappropriate clothing. It is also recommended that students bring sun protection (sun block, hats, etc.) for outside rehearsals. **Warm-ups are to be worn at ALL night marching rehearsals.**

Parents' Responsibility

As BAND AND COLOR GUARD performances are a large undertaking, parent support is imperative. There are many jobs that needed, from chaperoning, equipment truck drivers, to field announcers, equipment loaders to field aids: there is always a job you will enjoy. We ask that a representative of each family be part of a team (Equipment, Student Support, etc.) and that they chaperone or help with a minimum of three (3) activities during the school year. Sign ups are on a first come-first served basis, and are done through the website (www.arroyoknightsband.org under the Booster Area/Chaperons heading) or at the **mandatory parent meetings held on the first Tuesday of each month during the school year.** *Chaperons are required to be at the meetings in order to get the information they need.*

Parents are also expected to assist the students in any possible to be the best Band and COLOR GUARD member possible. This includes, but is not limited to:

1. Support **your son or daughter in their chosen activities.**
2. Insure **prompt arrival for rehearsals/performances**
3. Maintain proper working condition of their equipment
4. Assist the member in maintaining a positive attitude towards hard work
5. Help the student understand the importance of dependability, commitment, responsibility, etc.

Parents are also required to participate in two (2) of the following activities:

1. Rose Parade float decorating in December
2. 8th grade Band night at Arroyo in November
3. Fireworks booth sales July 1 – 4
4. Driver for Tournaments/Competitions

Booster Club

This is a very important part of our group on our road to success. The Arroyo Band and Color Guard Booster Club is an amazing group of non-members who join together to assist the Band and Color Guard. Boosters are usually parents of BAC members, but any adult over age 21 may join. Meetings are held in the Arroyo High School Band Room, #91, on the first Tuesday of each month at 6pm. Membership in the Band and Color Guard Booster Club is automatic and free of charge. Welcome to the Club!!

Fund Raising Activities

In order for our booster club to fund the Band and Color Guard in their activities, we have on-going fundraisers. Funding for Band and Color Guard is shared through members' donations, school funding, and fundraising activities of the Booster Club. These activities raise funds to offset costs for the members. Proceeds from fundraisers may be divided between individual student accounts (as donations) and the booster account. Fundraisers allow us to keep the donations needed from students to a low amount.

Student Account:

Students' accounts allow each family to decide for themselves how they want to balance out-of-pocket expenses with fundraising. Students are encourage to earn as much money as they can during designated fundraisers to supplement their donation. Student accounts may be used for donations to cover the cost of Band Camp, tour, and other costs associated with the program (banquet, garment/equipment purchases). The student accounts are subject to the following rules:

1. Student donations will first cover program costs. Any monies earned in fundraising activities will be applied to this first.
2. After program costs are covered, donations may be used to cover other BAC-related expenses such as trips, banquet, etc.
3. In the interest of privacy, student account balances will be posted only using student ID numbers for identification. Students and parents will have 30 days to notify the band office in writing if any changes need to be made to figures posted to accounts. After that time, those figures will become final.

Tour

During the second semester, select groups go on tour in the Spring. This may include festivals for Wind Ensemble, Jazz Band, and WGI Regional competitions for Drumline and Winter Guard. The costs are different for ach of the groups. Please refer to the cost sheets for those individual groups. These costs are in addition to the Band Camp costs.

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**ARROYO
KNIGHTS
BAND
AND
COLOR GUARD**

