

Camarillo Music Member Handbook



The Adolfo Camarillo High School Music Department strives to instill more than just musical or performance skill; responsibility, diligence, and contribution to campus and community define the members of Camarillo Music.



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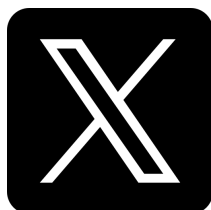
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A Note from the Director

It's my pleasure to welcome you to the 2024-2025 Adolfo Camarillo High School Music Department. ACHS offers a wide variety of performing ensembles at a California Distinguished and Gold Ribbon School. We are extremely proud of our diverse membership and comprehensive course offerings within the department.

This year we will continue to develop a sense of community for our students and look forward to molding the department to suit the needs of our students with a growth mindset. Our staff members are very much looking forward to working with all aspects of the program and helping these groups attain excellence. With one less director involved in the Department, students should expect to see increased numbers of staff as well as a higher level of involvement from some existing staff members.

Inside this handbook, we hope to thoroughly explain all procedures and inform you of policies so you are informed and prepared for the commitment of being a member of the ACHS Music Department. Within this handbook, you'll find grading policies, absence resolving and other important information for students and families alike. Please review all information for your ensemble and general practices to ensure your success and the success of the program.

We look forward to having you in the program and being part of the Music Department!

Cameron Guerrero

Music Director



Course Descriptions

Wind Ensemble Honors

The Wind Ensemble is a year-round ensemble offered 1st Period. This is the premiere concert ensemble in the program, and students receive honors credit for participating in the course. The Wind Ensemble is made up predominantly of upperclassmen and experienced musicians and explores challenging high school and collegiate literature. Students in this ensemble should study privately through the year and have a much stronger understanding and facility on their instrument. This is considered a core ensemble. ***This ensemble is by audition only.***

Symphonic Band

The Symphonic Band is a year-round ensemble offered 2nd Period. The Symphonic Band is made up of some upperclassmen and most lowerclassmen and explores high school literature. This is considered a core ensemble.

Vocal Ensemble

Vocal Ensemble is offered year-round during 4th Period. Music studied and performed ranges from classical choral literature to pop and jazz. Students will study and gain the ability to read music and understand basic music theory. All students are welcome in Vocal Ensemble regardless of prior experience. This is considered a core ensemble.

Concert Band (Chamber Ensemble)

Concert Band is being used as a chamber percussion course and is offered during 5th Period. While--in the past--Concert Band served as our entry-level wind band, it is currently serving as an opportunity for percussionists to work on their small ensemble abilities.

String Orchestra

String Orchestra is offered year-round during 5th Period. This ensemble includes violin, viola, cello, and bass with occasional accompaniment by piano or percussion. The purpose of this ensemble is to build technique and understanding of both their instrument and theory, and includes a large amount of peer-to-peer tutoring. This is considered a core ensemble.



Jazz Bands

Advanced Jazz Honors is offered year-round during 0 Period. Jazz Band II is offered during 7th Period in spring semester only. These courses explore classic swing jazz to contemporary rock music. Both Jazz I and Jazz II explore jazz styles, history and theory. These ensembles require a co-requisite or core class to enroll.

Marching Band

Marching Band, the largest of our groups, includes many of the wind players of all ensembles plus percussionists and color guard members. This group performs at football games, community events, parades, and in SCSBOA field show competitions. The course meets as a block schedule after school (7th Period) and the schedule is:

Monday – 5:45 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Wednesday – 5:45 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Thursday – 3:45 p.m. - 5:45 p.m.

Marching Band is offered in the fall semester only, and students enrolled will receive P.E. credit once they have passed a state physical fitness test. *California Education Code requires that freshmen must also take a class that provides PE credit during the 2nd semester of their freshman year.* Students should seek advice from a director about any changes in your music department schedule that could affect credits required for graduation. This ensemble requires a co-requisite or core class to enroll.

The Marching Band plays a pivotal role on campus by demonstrating school spirit at football games and rallies, but members also act as ACHS ambassadors throughout Southern California as they compete at a regional level. This is the most visible ensemble of the program. Marching Band is not an audition-based ensemble, and students of all levels are welcome.

Color Guard/Winter Guard

Camarillo Music is pleased to offer a Color Guard course in addition to Marching Band. This ensemble gives Color Guard students the opportunity to continue their pageantry experience indoors in the spring. Winter Guard performs throughout Southern California in indoor competitions. Winter Guard explores the use of dance, rifle, saber, and flag work to a soundtrack. This ensemble requires a co-requisite or core class to enroll. ***This ensemble is by audition only.***

Winter Percussion

Winter Percussion is offered during 7th Period in the Spring. This ensemble gives percussion students the opportunity to continue their percussive marching arts experience indoors in the spring. Indoor Percussion performs throughout Southern California in indoor competitions. Due to limited instrumentation, not all students may be accepted into the ensemble. This ensemble requires a co-requisite or core class to enroll. ***This ensemble is by audition only.***



Eligibility

All students are subject to district policy of maintaining a minimum of a 2.0 GPA in order to participate in performances or competitions. Students may be placed on probation by a director in order to more closely monitor the student's grades or be assigned study hall in order to address concerns with work. Student performers are always STUDENTS FIRST.

Leadership

In addition to our department staff, our leadership team consists of student mentors, including drum majors, section leaders, and a dedicated group of other students. These students are selected by the directors and have been trained by outside coaching to develop their leadership skills. While some of our students have been selected to be key leaders, we expect that all of our students act as leaders in and out of the classroom and strive to earn a similar position in their four years in the department. Leadership Team members are subject to being removed upon a review of actions or inactions. Please review the Leadership Application for all expectations and protocols.

Earning a Letter or Cord

Like a Varsity athlete, members can earn letters and other assorted regalia for their years of commitment to the program.

- Letters are earned concluding 2 years of Marching Band or 6 semesters of another music course.
- Your letter provided will read "Music". Any additional stitching of Band, Jazz, Drumline, Guard, Vocal, or Orchestra must be purchased and stitched.
- A starter chevron may be purchased following your 3rd year in Marching Band or 4 years of another music course.
- One additional chevron may be purchased as a 4th year member of Marching Band.
- Cords are earned for 8 semesters of music. These must be consecutive semesters and not a combo of ensembles. Our cords are provided by the department and are two shades of blue.
- Some pins may be earned for various ensembles.
- Fine Arts Scholar Patches can be purchased and are based on a GPA of 3.5 or above in the 2nd Semester report card (as that falls before Banquet). This is an imperfect report in Synergy and errors may occur. We do our best to make this as accurate as possible.



Materials

Material/Equipment Purchase Guidance

OUHSD, ACHS, and the Music Boosters do their best to support our program and provide the necessary equipment to participate and be successful in the performing arts. Using school equipment may mean that you will be sharing. If you choose to own your own equipment, we recommend the items below.

All Musicians

- (Winds/Strings) Tuner/Metronome Combo - (Korg TM60 or Snark SN8 clip-on tuner) OR the Tonal Energy or similar app.

Woodwind Players

- At least 3 quality reeds at all times (Vandoren blue box, ask a staff member about strength)
- Reed guard or reed case to protect the reeds (Rico Reed Guard IV or reed case w/humidity pack)
- Silk swabs to swab spit out of instrument after each time playing
- Cork grease

Brass Players

- Valve Oil (Hetman Synthetic or Yamaha Synthetic)
- Slide Grease (Schilke w/ Lanolin)
- Silver polishing cloth
- Slide Oil (trombones only – Recommend Yamaha Slide Oil)
- Brush Snake for monthly cleanings of inside of instrument

Percussionists

- Concert Snare Sticks (Vic Firth SD1, Pro Mark SD1 or IP CL1 or LD1)
- Medium Yarn Marimba Mallets (Vic Firth M182, Pro Mark JW3 or IP WU3)
- General Timpani Mallets (Vic Firth T1 or ProMark T1)
- Drum Pad (Vic Firth Slim Pad, Real 12D or Off World Invader)
- Stick bag to keep your sticks in one place

String Players

- An extra set of strings, especially your top two strings on any particular instrument
- Appropriate rosin



School Instruments

Camarillo High School has a limited supply of school instruments available for (free) checkout. If you are in need of a school-owned instrument, we will do our best to satisfy your need for your primary instrument. *In some cases, it may be necessary to find an alternate instrument for you to play if your preferred instrument is not available in the school inventory.*

Students are expected to return instruments at the end of the semester or year in appropriate condition. *Should instruments require repair, please do not attempt to perform maintenance or take it to a shop yourself without first consulting a director.* Significant damage or loss will be charged per ed code policy.

****Note** – School instruments are subject to sharing. Students should coordinate/alternate taking these instruments home as needed. Each student will have their own mouthpiece/reeds in this situation. **

Purchasing an Instrument or Equipment

Students are welcome and encouraged to invest in an instrument or related equipment. While Camarillo Music is always striving to update and improve instrument inventory, purchasing an instrument provides students and their families control over the quality and condition of their instrument.

It is imperative that—when purchasing high-value items—families reach out to a director, staff member, or private instructor before investing. While finding a discounted, \$100-\$200 instrument from your favorite online retailer can seem like the best option, in reality most of these instruments are made out of subpar materials and cannot be repaired. In short, a larger initial investment can guarantee a better long-term experience. The right instrument can even be an heirloom!



Rehearsal/Performance Attendance

Attendance at rehearsals, performances, and other events is mandatory unless otherwise stated. Failure to attend scheduled events can result in removal from a performance or performance ensemble or negatively impact student grades. After-school Marching Band rehearsals are still a class, and do require a call to the attendance office for proper marking by the school if it is an excused absence or illness.

Excused Absences

All absences are considered unexcused until cleared with a director. *In all cases, please communicate early and often!!* Some examples of what could be excused absences include:

- Serious illness
- Funerals
- Weddings of immediate family members
- Religious events
- Sports commitments (when previously discussed/approved). Conflicts should be discussed on a case-by-case basis. Practice = Rehearsal < Game < Concert/Festival/Competition ≤ Playoff Game

Unexcused Absences

Communication is essential. The directors can deal with each student's situation on a case by case basis. Family vacations, work, birthdays, pop music concerts, too much homework, college or other classes outside of ACHS classes, SAT/ACT prep classes, or lack of transportation are all examples of unexcused absences. Please plan ahead and work to sort out all conflicts.

Furthermore, sports practices that have not been worked out with the directors and the respective coach are unexcused. We encourage our students to be in sports and attend college classes, but signing up for these should be planned and coordinated with a director in order to ensure students can commit to all desired activities.

The final rehearsal before a show/concert is considered a dress rehearsal and is mandatory, as is every other rehearsal. Missing a dress rehearsal may result in removal of the performer from some or all of the following performance. The final school day prior to a performance, or the day of the performance, it is expected that you make a minimum of 4 periods of school, unless you are participating in a school sanctioned field trip/sports event.

****Make-up credit may be available to recover any lost points, but the student is responsible to request.****



Attire

Marching Band Rehearsals

Students should wear appropriate clothing that allows for movement and comfort during all rehearsals and prepare for hot or cold weather. Athletic shoes are highly recommended. Flip flops/sandals are not allowed for safety reasons and skate shoes/converse/other non-tying shoes and flats are highly discouraged. Gloves should be worn if you are using a school-owned brass instrument to protect the silver plating.

Marching Band Performances

Marching Band members are provided band-issued uniform jackets, pants, shakos and plumes. Uniforms are very expensive and require the utmost care. Please follow the following rules and expectations.

- ABSOLUTELY NO FOOD, DRINK OR GUM IS ALLOWED WHILE IN UNIFORM (except water and Booster-provided snacks).
- Students must wear SHOW SHIRT (provided) under the uniform always.
- Students are required to wear LIGHT GYM OR RUNNING SHORTS (that will not show under the uniform pants) so that they can change in public as changing facilities are not always available.
- Marching shoes and gloves (except percussionists) are required and are provided. Anything lost will need to be replaced by the student. These are property of OUHSD and must be returned unless you decide to purchase your own.
- Percussionists wear BLACK WRISTBANDS
- Students must wear LONG BLACK SOCKS, not short and/or white socks.
- No makeup is permitted while in uniform unless otherwise stated by the directors.
- Students with long hair should arrive with their hair neatly put up so it will fit inside of the shako for the performance.
- Refrain from touching the feathers on the plume to prevent undue wear.

Marching Band Uniform and Associated Items

- Show shirt (worn under the uniform at all times) – 1 provided, additional available for purchase
- Bicycle/compression shorts or light athletic shorts that will not show when worn under the uniform
- Blue Music Polo Shirt – worn for casual performances, provided on loan unless you choose to purchase
- Black marching shoes will be provided on loan unless you choose to purchase
- LONG BLACK SOCKS
- Gloves (except for percussionists) will be provided unless you choose to purchase
- Gym bag (Med size, for your personal items during performances, also optional, but recommended)



Winter Percussion/Color Guard Costumes

Color Guard, Winter Guard and Winter Drumline members' costumes are purchased for them by either OUHSD or the Boosters. These uniforms are property of the program and must be returned at the end of the season. Additional makeup or hair styles may accompany the uniform during performances.

Color Guard Uniform and Associated Items

- Custom uniform fitted and ordered during Band Camp will be provided.
- Dance shoes will be provided unless you choose to purchase.
- Gym bag (Large size, for your personal items during performances, optional but recommended)

Casual Performances/Events

Camarillo Music students often wear the ACHS Music polo shirt. Students will be allowed to borrow a polo shirt free of charge, but have the opportunity to purchase a personalized version if they choose to.

Concert Attire: Concert Ensembles

All Concert Ensembles (wind bands, Orchestra Vocal Ensemble) are to wear concert dress for performances and festivals as stated below. Concert dresses and tuxes will be provided unless you choose to purchase and are to be returned each year.

Option 1: Black tuxedo. All parts available to borrow, including shoes.

Option 2: Floor-length black dress with $\frac{3}{4}$ length sleeve. Please provide black dress flats or low heels.

Concert Attire: Jazz Bands

For formal performances, jazz bands will wear solid colored slacks and a solid colored dress shirt and professional tie with optional suit jacket or blazer. Dresses/skirts are also an option, but must be of appropriate length. Dress shoes (not Drill Masters) and long matching socks. Please, no hats. For casual performances, the Jazz Band may be instructed to wear something different than this, such as the blue band polo shirt and jeans.



Donations

We hope that families consider making a donation to the Music Boosters in order to help support the cost of the program that are additional services and support to our students and help provide a world class experience. Below lists each portion of the program's overall target donation as a group and some of what these donations will help support. Please consider supporting our program in any way you are capable.

No student will be prevented from participation in the ACHS Music Department because of the lack of a donation.

Our 2024 Marching Band donation goal is \$30,000, and the Boosters will spend roughly \$1,450 per enrolled student. This amount covers transportation, show design costs, equipment, and more!

Our 2024-2025 Concert Ensembles donation goal is \$10,000. Any donations made towards these ensembles will supply additional sheet music, clinicians, and updated instruments/equipment.

Total 2024-2025 Jazz Ensembles donation goal is \$2,000. Any donations made towards these ensembles will supply additional sheet music, clinicians, and updated instruments/equipment.

Total 2025 Winter Ensembles donation goal for (Winter Guard & Winter Percussion) is \$5,750, and the Boosters will spend roughly \$625 per enrolled student. The donations are targeted to cover the costs of travel, show design, prop materias, copyright clearances, sack lunches for students at shows, Winter Guard flag design and costumes, as well as other production costs.

Check with your employer (Amgen, Verizon, Intuit, Baxter International, Boeing, etc.) to see if they offer a donation matching program.

Donations can be made by:

- Check payable to **ACHS MUSIC BOOSTERS**
- Donation via Zelle (details at www.achsmusic.com/donate)
- Recurring donation via [Givebutter](#) (set it and forget it!)

All donations are tax deductible and the ACHS MUSIC BOOSTER Tax ID is 47-0945780.



2024-2025 ACHS Music Boosters Information and Contacts

Website

Information about the ACHS Music Department is available at www.achsmusic.com. The site includes specific pages for each group, a calendar, contact pages, news, pictures and videos.

Email Newsletter

You will receive information about the ACHS Music Department from communications@achsmusic.com biweekly (more often as needed). Please make sure this email is in your address book.

Volunteer Sign-Ups

The Boosters use SignUp Genius to organize volunteering opportunities for various events. Links to these can be found in the Newsletter and on social media (Band/Instagram).

Executive Board

President

Randy Smith president@achsmusic.com

Vice President

Ernesto Perez vicepresident@achsmusic.com

Secretary

Casondra Bankson secretary@achsmusic.com

Treasurer

Ed Wiegman treasurer@achsmusic.com

Assistant Treasurer

Vacant assist-treasurer@achsmusic.com

Director of Communications

Ashlee Martin communications@achsmusic.com

Director of Volunteers & Logistics

Jill Smith volunteers@achsmusic.com

Director of Fundraising

Vacant fundraising@achsmusic.com



Handbook Agreements

Both parent/guardian and student must virtually sign and submit this form to confirm that you have received, reviewed and understand the parameters and involvement required of this program outlined in the handbook. It is our intent to communicate with you on a regular basis to keep you informed of any changes or updates, but this handbook is a great outline and foundation for this program.

By turning in this form, you understand and agree to the commitments, policies, and general parameters for each program. It is in our best interest for everyone to succeed in this program and stay involved.

Please be aware that the schedule is tentative and we will communicate all changes in classes, on the website/BAND app, and/or via e-mail. Please stay informed and involved.

Please [click here](#) or visit **bit.ly/cammusichandbook24** (case-sensitive) to complete the electronic handbook sign-off form.