

RUBEN S. AYALA HIGH SCHOOL
BAND AND COLOR GUARD



2010-2011

Handbook

MARK STONE, DIRECTOR

Ayala High School
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Chino Hills, California 91709
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www.ayalabac.org

SLOGAN:

To achieve excellence through
pride, dedication, hard work,
and a touch of class.

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Ayala Band and Color Guard Boosters
P.O. Box 2104
Chino Hills, California 91709

T O E X C E L

To Excel is to continually perform.
Not for a moment or moments.
Not for a day or days.
But to perform day after day,
month after month,
and to make that uncommon performance look commonplace.

To Excel is to take the inner drive
of competition and not only embrace it,
but master it.
It is no wonder then, that when one truly excels,
one is known for excellence.

It cannot be taught, or legislated, or willed into existence.
It must come from the very depths of an
individual's desire to be the best.

- *Anonymous* -

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WELCOME

WELCOME to the Ruben S. Ayala Band and Color Guard!

We would like to welcome you to our family, the B.A.C. (Band And Color Guard).

This group is an important one on our campus. It is a spirit group at athletic events, entertainment at half times, and competitors at band tournaments. It is also an important political force on campus, as it is one of the largest "clubs" on campus. More importantly, it is a group of individuals that feel being part of a team is the most important part of any activity. **It is made of people who perform music for it's own sake, and build strength through competition as a team.**

Your director and instructional staff, Ayala High School and administration, and past members have been working for more than 20 years to build the best Band and Color Guard program of which we can all be proud!

Your equipment (school-supplied instruments; trombones, baritones, tubas, etc.) has been carefully selected for a large band to produce an outstanding sound. Uniforms, flags, drill and equipment have been chosen and designed to give you the optimum visibility, appeal, and pride! The only thing we could not buy or design is the most important part: YOU! The talented, hard-working, and dedicated BAC member.

If you have not been part of a group like this before, you may not appreciate the amount of work and dedication that your membership will require. It takes long hours of practice, and superior effort on your part. You will need to attend all required practices and all mandatory performances.

Now don't get me wrong! I know you will do your best and you will try your hardest, so you will succeed if you want it bad enough. All of your hard work will be repaid many-fold with the success of this group and the fun you will have with your fellow members.

We need to build our TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE from the first day we meet, the first note we play, the first step of drill or the first equipment we spin, and the first step we march. It will take lots of hard work, long hours of practice, and more discipline that you know you have!

Have I scared you off yet? If not, then read on!

ABOUT AYALA BAC



Your Director:

My name is Mark Stone. This is my 21st year here at Ayala High School, and my 29th year teaching. I am experienced in Jazz band, Marching band (field and street), Concert Bands, Color Guard, Drumline and touring, just to name a few activities. I am also an adjudicator for Southern California School Band and Orchestra Association (S.C.S.B.O.A) and Vice President of Western Band Association. 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!

Philosophy and Goals:

Music is a very important aspect of any culture, and is an important characteristic of our “quality of life”. Can you imagine a world where there is no music? Stereos, sound tracks, dancing, whistling, and singing would all be unimaginable!

The high school music program offers the student the opportunity to experience and learn about self-expression and creativity. It offers an experience in performing a wonderful art form, be it instrumental performance or the visual interpretation of the music.

It also gives the student a great chance to meet new people and develop long-lasting friendships. Through practice and performance, the member will grow to understand teamwork and what it takes to succeed. It is a right that we all enjoy in our country to pursue an interest in music.

The Ayala B.A.C. is an excellent place for the musician or a color guard member because it has a place for any person, who is willing to be a supporting member, to improve his or her own individual ability.

Activities:

This year we will be participating in many different activities. In the first semester, the Ayala Marching Band will be performing in field tournaments, all home football games, parades and a number of community performances. We also perform at some home basketball games. During the second semester, we offer Concert Band, Symphonic Band, two Jazz Ensembles, Marching Drumline, Concert Percussion Ensemble, and two Winter Color Guard teams. Other B.A.C. activities will include fundraising drives, a beach trip, barbeque, potlucks, and performance trips (tour), etc.

Competition:

In our culture, music is often treated incorrectly from a competitive point of view. It is treated like a sporting event, where groups are always judged by how they compare to other groups. We feel that music is an art, and everyone has the right to express themselves, and to contribute to the maximum of their capabilities.

Although we will be doing many competitions, the major emphasis will be on doing our best as a group and performing well. If it so happens that we win the top awards, then that is great, but our goal is performing to our potential.

School Spirit:

This group is one of the largest and most visible individual groups on campus. Therefore it must always be remembered that we are at times a spirit group (like the pep-squad), **and must assist in maintaining our outstanding school's spirit (GO BULLDOGS!).**

STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOR

Discipline:

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

Self-discipline is the best form of discipline. If the discipline problem (excessive talking during rehearsal, for example) 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.

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 is 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 very important 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 before a performance, you may 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.

In order to be excused from a performance, 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.

There is no way to be excused from rehearsal!

Exceptions are sudden illness or a death in the immediate family and notification must be in writing. Doctor's appointments should be made at times that do not conflict with rehearsals, so they do not constitute an excuse.

CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Every member will always conduct themselves in a manner appropriate to a B.A.C. member; while practicing, performing, during class, or anytime while representing the Ayala B.A.C.
2. All members will maintain a 2.0 grade point average (G.P.A.).
3. Truancy, fighting, or any disciplinary problem is unacceptable for a B.A.C. member.
4. Uniforms, equipment, band facility, 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 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.
6. Smoking, drinking of alcohol or abuse of any drugs is prohibited and will not be tolerated.
7. No public use of profanity is allowed.
8. No excessive talking during rehearsal. No talking what-so-ever during a performance.
9. If you borrowed it, bring it back.
10. If you got it out, put it away.
11. If it is not yours, leave it alone.
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 public display of affection (P.D.A.).

All rules and regulations will be strictly enforced and any infractions will be dealt with by the Director.

Infractions can be dealt with by administrative referral, performance probation/suspension, and denial of letter and/or removal from performance group.

ACADEMICS

Grading:

As this is a co-curricular group, students will receive a grade for their participation in the B.A.C. Grading will be done on a point system, and grades will be assigned on a modified curve. Points are given/assigned on the following basis:

1. You will be given 1 point for every hour you participate in the B.A.C.
2. You will be docked points (or portions of points) for being late or leaving early.
3. Positions such as drum major, section leader, etc... will be worth additional points.

Points will be totaled for each grading period, and the grade earned will be assigned.

Academic Eligibility:

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

Eligibility is checked after every progress report/report card, which comes out every 6 to 7 weeks. These are the only grades that determine eligibility and walk-around grade checks do not count. If the member does not meet the academic standards, they are deemed "ineligible". The ineligible member will not be allowed to participate in any BAC activities.

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 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.

School Letter:

As a member of a performing group of the Ayala B.A.C. you will be eligible to receive a school letter after completion of two semesters. In the fall only Marching Band and Jazz I Ensemble are performance ensembles, but all second semester ensembles (Concert Band, Symphonic Band, Jazz Ensembles I & II, Marching Drumline, Concert Percussion and Varsity and JV Color Guards) are our performance groups. This letter is the same earned by athletic teams, and can be worn on a varsity jacket.

To earn this letter you must be a member in good standing, and participate in all performances (see Attendance section for exceptions) for the full year (or two semesters). This does include attendance in all extra rehearsals and summer program (if applicable). You must also hold a current U.S.B. card.

THE STUDENTS

B.A.C. Council:

The Band Council is a group of B.A.C. members that are elected by the B.A.C. members for the purpose of leadership, or in the case of Captains and Drum Majors, who are chosen by audition for the position.

The Band Council's responsibility will be to organize and administrate all B.A.C. social activities, Spring Awards Banquet, and make policy/discipline decisions, as deemed by the Director.

The Band Council officers are as follows:

PRESIDENT

A senior, from any section, should hold this position. This student is the leader chosen by the students, and is the highest student authority, except in marching rehearsal when the highest authority is the Drum Major(s). This person runs the B.A.C. Council meeting, makes the final B.A.C. Council decisions, and is responsible for all B.A.C. Council activities.

VICE PRESIDENT

A member from any class or section can hold this position. This person's responsibility is to support the President, in all situations, and to substitute for the President in any situation that the President cannot be present. The Vice President is responsible for the organization and program choices at the Spring Awards Banquet. The annual banquet location will be chosen by the BAC Executive Board and the Band Director.

SECRETARY

Any member can hold this position. It is this person's responsibility to keep records of all decisions made by the B.A.C. Council. This person will also be responsible for writing all correspondence for the B.A.C. Council. This person is also required to keep track of attendance/participation points and to keep the attendance board up-to-date.

DRUM MAJORS

Any member in the band, who has at least one year of experience in the program, may hold one of these positions. These people are chosen through a combination of audition, application and interview scores. Drum Majors are the conductors and leaders of the B.A.C. in all marching performances. Drum Majors receive instructions from the Directors/instructors and relay them to the unit. The Drum Majors have total authority in the marching rehearsal or performance. Drum Majors must re-audition every year and are selected by the Directors and staff. In most cases, one person will be selected as the Head Drum Major and others may be assigned to be conducting Assistant Drum Major.

CLASS ASSISTANT DRUM MAJORS

As with the Drum Majors, this position is chosen through a combination of audition, application and interview scores. We may have an Assistant Drum Major from each class (sophomore, junior and senior). The Assistant Drum Major will serve as the class representative on the B.A.C. Council. Assistant Drum Majors must also audition each year.

DRUM CAPTAIN AND PIT CAPTAIN

Any Percussion member that has at least one year in the program may hold these positions. These positions is selected by the percussion instructors and the Directors. The Captains is in charge of the Drumline units as a whole, and will be assisted by section leaders. The Captain will also represent the Drumline on the B.A.C. Council.

COLOR GUARD CAPTAIN

A Color Guard member that has at least one year in the program may hold this position. As with the Drum Major, this position is chosen by audition only. The Color Guard Captain is in charge of the Color Guard units as a whole, and will be assisted by Co-Captains. The Captain will also represent the Color Guard on the B.A.C. Council.

BRASS CAPTAIN

Any Marching Band brass player that has at least one year in the program may hold this position. This position is selected by the Band Director through a combination of audition score, application and interview. The Brass Captain is in charge of the brass section as a whole, and will be assisted by section leaders. The Captain will also represent the Brass Section on the B.A.C. Council.

WOODWIND CAPTAIN

Any Marching Band woodwind player that has at least one year in the program may hold this position. This position is selected by the Band Director through a combination of audition score, application and interview. The Woodwind Captain is in charge of the woodwind section as a whole, and will be assisted by section leaders. The Captain will also represent the Woodwind Section on the B.A.C. Council.

JAZZ ENSEMBLE REPRESENTATIVE

This person can be from any class, but must be in the Jazz Ensemble Class. It is this person's responsibility to represent the Jazz Band on the B.A.C. Council.

All of these positions are important to the B.A.C., and are excellent opportunities for the student to learn leadership skills and earn extra grade points (25 points per year). B.A.C. Council positions are either elected or auditioned each year.

THE STAFF

A staff member is an adult who is contracted by the booster club and/or the school district to assist the Director in teaching a specialized squad or section. Instructors are needed with championship groups, and will be treated with the respect due their position.

At this time, our staff includes:

Assistant Director

Color Guard Instructors (3)

Percussion Instructors (3)

Marching Instructors (4)

Brass Tech

Woodwind Tech

Percussion Tech (4)

Clinicians

Music Arranger-Fall

Drill Writer-Fall

Drill Writer-Spring (color guard)

SECTION SEATING

Each section player will be assigned a part (if the music calls for divided parts) and a seat, in order of playing proficiency, and 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 his/her seat.

Challenge:

The procedure for Challenge is as follows:

1. The Challenger informs the Director, and then informs the person to be challenged (the Challengee).
2. Both parties have one week to pick a piece of music that they feel best represents their ability.
3. After both parties have the music, the Director assigns a challenge date, usually in one week.
4. **During the Challenge, the Challenger plays the Challengee’s selection first, followed by the Challengee.**
5. **The Challengee then plays the Challenger’s selection, followed by the Challenger.**
6. Both parties then play a selection chosen by the Director, Challenger first followed by the Challengee.
7. Scores are totaled and results are posted.
8. The seat is awarded to the musician with the highest score. In the event of a tie, the seat will be awarded to the upperclassman.

A period of two weeks must pass before either person can re-challenge.

Section Leaders:

The Section Leader shall be a person who has served at least one year in the band program. This is not a B.A.C. Council position, but is a position of leadership. The Section Leader is selected through a combination of audition score, application and interview, and one Section Leader is chosen from each section with more than three members.

It is the responsibility of section leader to:

- Call and run section rehearsals as needed
- Give memorization tests to section members

EQUIPMENT / UNIFORM

School Equipment:

All of the school equipment/uniforms will be of high quality and repair, and must be cared 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".

Costs for the Member:

B.A.C. WARM-UP AND UNIFORM:

Each B.A.C. member will be required to purchase a B.A.C. warm-up. These garments will be worn at B.A.C. activities such as away games, after performances, etc. Warm-ups are also required at all night marching band practices. For our marching band uniform, each student must provide their own compression bike shorts for wearing under their uniform.

BAND SHOES:

All members of the band (with the exception of Color Guard) will be asked to purchase a **pair of uniform band shoes**. They are called "Dinkels-Formal". They will be black patent 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. Black socks must always be worn.

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:

<u>Instrument</u>	<u>Brand/Size</u>
Clarinet (Bb)	Van Doren B45
Alto Sax	Selmer S80 C*
Tenor Sax	Selmer S80 C*
Mellophone	Marcinkiewicz M5-a-20
Trumpet	Marcinkiewicz 3C
Trombone/Baritone	Marcinkiewicz 8h/61/2 AI or 5G
Sousaphone/Tuba	Marcinkiewicz N4

ADDITIONAL GARMENTS:

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

FEES:

Each member will be required to pay a “fair-share” fee in order to participate in after-school activities, competitions and festivals. If fees are not paid (including unpaid fees from previous years for returning students), members will not be able to participate in extra-curricular activities (performances, tours, practices, etc.), this will affect your eligibility to letter. Please refer to the payment schedules in Appendix 1, pages 16-21 for your specific ensemble.

REFUNDS:

Refunds will only be granted for garments and/or equipment not yet purchased at the time of the refund request. Fees will be refunded at the discretion of the Executive Board on a prorated basis. Monies earned in fundraising events are considered "donations" to the organization and cannot be refunded. Student ineligibility does not constitute a viable reason for refunds or a reversal of fees. Fundraising credits are not refundable.

During the student's senior year any remaining credit balance may be utilized for senior expenses (prom, Grad-night, etc.). Any amount not requested will be transferred to the Ayala B.A.C. Scholarship as of July 1 following the student's senior year. Money may be transferred to a sibling's account.

Rehearsal Dress:

BAND:

For marching rehearsals, all band members should wear tennis shoes or band shoes. 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). 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.

COLOR GUARD:

Color guard members are required to dress out for class during the school day. There are facilities available where the members may dress. 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 (i.e. cool, light clothing for the summer; warm, workable clothing for the winter). 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.

POLICIES / RESPONSIBILITIES

Transportation Policy:

According to the District's transportation policy, every B.A.C. 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.

There are times during the second semester when groups are asked to travel to events in personal cars. If you are to transport students, you must be approved by the District. In order to be approved you must submit proof of insurance, a copy of your DMV record, and a copy of your driver's license.

The only exception to these rules is if the performance is within the District boundaries, and if authorized by the Director. No other exceptions!

Parents' Responsibility:

As B.A.C. performances are a large undertaking, parent support is imperative. There are many jobs needed from equipment truck drivers to seamstresses, from equipment loaders to grant writers, and there is a job you will enjoy. We require that a representative from each family be part of a team (equipment, student support, etc.) and work a minimum of three (3) activities during the school year. Sign-ups are on a first come, first serve basis, and are done at the mandatory parents meeting in May, or by contacting an Executive Board member. We also require that a parent from each family work 3 of our 5 yearly fund raising events. **These events offset a portion of your student's fair share fees, so if you fail to work these events, an additional fee of \$50 per event will be assessed to student's account.** These activities are:

1. Music In Motion Field Tournament - October 16, 2010
2. Rose Parade Bleacher Ushering and Parking - January 1, 2011
3. Festival In The Hills Dance Competition - March 4-5, 2011
4. S.C.P.A. Drumline Competition - TBA
5. Cow Chip Bingo TBA

Parents are also expected to assist the students in any way possible to be the best B.A.C. member possible. This includes but is not limited to:

1. Support your son/daughter in their chosen activities.
2. Insure prompt arrival for rehearsals/performances.
3. Maintain student-owned 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.

BOOSTER ORGANIZATION

This is a very important part of our group on our road to success. The Ayala Band and Color Guard Boosters is a group of non-members who join together to assist the B.A.C. Boosters are usually parents of B.A.C. members, but any adult may join.

Meetings will be held in the Ayala High School Band Room, C114, on the first Thursday of each month. Membership in the B.A.C. Booster Association's is free of charge.

Fundraising Activities:

In order for our booster club to fund the B.A.C. in their activities (next year's budget is approximately \$600,000), we have ongoing fundraisers. Some of the past activities have included Cookie Dough, Poinsettia Sales, Car Wash-a-thon, Cow Chip Bingo, and Magazine sales. These activities raise funds to offset costs for the members.

Student Account:

Student Accounts allow each family to decide for themselves how they want to balance out-of-pocket expenses with fundraising. Students are encouraged to earn as much money as they can during designated fundraisers to supplement fees and costs that come about from time to time. The student accounts may be used for fees, trip payments and expenses for the B.A.C. program (banquet, garment/equipment purchases, etc). The student accounts are subject to the following policies:

Each student account will be charged fair share fees and other costs incurred. If you do not have sufficient funds to cover the fees, you will be responsible to make up the difference. Any monies earned in fundraising activities or overpayment will be first applied towards any fees that are not current. Overdue accounts are not permitted.

In the interest of privacy, account balances will be posted on the office window in the Band Room or in the monthly booster newsletter, and on the BAC web site using your student number for identification. Students and parents will have 30 days to notify the Student Finance Director in writing if any changes need to be made in figures that are posted to a personal account. After that time, the posted figures will become final.

Tours:

The Ayala Marching Band will be participating in the Grand National Championships in Indianapolis, Indiana. This cost is included in your fee schedule. The second semester groups may go on tour in the spring. The costs are different for each group, so please refer to each ensemble cost sheets in Appendix 1, pages 16-21.

Article I: Name

The name of this organization is “Ayala Band and Color Guard Boosters.”

Article II: Purpose

The specific purposes of this organization are

- To provide support from parents to improve the quality of education for those students in the Ruben S. Ayala High School (Ayala or School) Band and Color Guard Program (BAC).
- To further the best interests of the Ayala BAC and the musical education of its students.
- To promote and administer the fundraising efforts at the discretion of the Band Director.
- To support, whenever possible and within reason, the Band Director in his duties in connection with the BAC.

Article III: Executive Board

The Executive Board shall be comprised of elected officers and the School Band Director, all of whom shall be members of the organization.

The Executive Board

- Shall transact necessary business between general meetings of the organization, prepare an agenda, and transact other business, which may be referred by the organization.
 - Shall fill all vacancies of offices, including that of the President with a simple majority and with approval at the next General Membership Meeting.
 - Shall maintain a simple majority (half plus one member) present in order to transact any business or vote at an Executive Board Meeting.
 - May authorize the payment of organizational bills within the budget adopted by the membership and, between meetings of the organization without approval of the organization at a general meeting may authorize the payment of unallocated expenditures not to exceed \$200.00.
-