

2009

MASON HIGH SCHOOL

MARCHING BAND HANDBOOK

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INTRODUCTION TO BAND AT MASON HIGH SCHOOL

About Mason High School Band Department

The Mason High School Band department has many opportunities. From its co-curricular Marching Band and extracurricular Jazz, Pep, Winter Percussion, or Winter Guard to the “in school” class offerings suited for any musician’s ability. Currently 350 students benefit from the many diverse musical styles available at MHS.

MHS School bands are divided into 5 ability based programs where students are challenged musically and perform regularly - Concert Band White and Green are entry level bands; audition bands are Concert Winds and Symphonic Band - intermediate level, and Wind Symphony - honors level band.

In 2007 all of Mason’s concert bands received Superior (I) or Excellent (II) ratings at the OMEA District Adjudicated Event. Wind Symphony received a Superior rating at state the last several years. In 2008 Wind Symphony was the first band in Ohio to receive the prestigious “Sudler Flag of Honor”, and international award which is the highest award a concert band can receive. The Marching Band was AAA class champion and a finalist at the Bands of America regional competition in Youngstown in 2007 and was a semifinalist at Bands of America Grand National Championships in 2002, 2003, 2007 and 2008. Winter Percussion was a finalist at WGI World Competition in 2001 and 2002.

Musical Offerings at Mason High School

Brass Class (0.5 credit) -This class is open to all students in grades 9 through 12 who play a brass instrument. Enrollment will be by director recommendation only. This performance and skill-based class will include marching, concert, jazz, and chamber music. This group performs during first trimester for community activities, school functions, and special performances.

Percussion Class (0.5 credit) - This class is open to all students in grades 9 through 12 who play a percussion instrument. Enrollment will be by director recommendation only. This performance and skill-based class will include marching, concert, jazz, and chamber music. This group performs during first trimester for community activities, school functions, and special performances.

Woodwind Class (0.5 credit) - This class is open to all students in grades 9 through 12 who play a woodwind instrument. Enrollment will be by director recommendation only. This performance and skill-based class will include marching, concert, jazz, and chamber music. This group performs during first trimester for community activities, school functions, and special performances.

Beginning Guitar Class (0.5 credit) - This course is for students without previous experience. Instruction includes basic chords and strum patterns, bass guitar, lead guitar, staff and tablature notation, and introductory Barr chords. Music of all styles is utilized including Rock, Folk, Pop, and Classical. Guitars are provided for in-school use. Open to grades 10 through 12.

Marching Band (0.5 credit) - The Mason High School Marching Band is open to all students in grades 9 through 12 who play a brass, percussion, or woodwind instrument. This is a select group who rehearses after school. Enrollment will be by director recommendation. This performance-based group will perform at marching band competitions, most football games, community and school functions, state contest, and special performances.

Concert Bands (1.0 credit) - The MHS Concert Bands meet for two trimesters, and are open to all students in grades 9 through 12 who play a brass, percussion, or woodwind instrument. Enrollment will be by audition only. These performance-based classes will include concert, jazz, and solo ensemble music. In addition, the Concert Bands will concentrate on the basic fundamentals of instrumental music (scales, tone, rhythm, etc.). These groups perform during the school year for community activities, school functions, district and state contests, and special performances.

Concert Winds (1.0 credit) - The MHS Concert Winds meets for two trimesters, and is open to all students in grades 9 through 12 who

play a brass, percussion, or woodwind instrument. This group prepares band students for entering the Symphonic Band or Wind Symphony. Enrollment will be by audition and director(s) recommendation. This performance-based class will include concert, jazz, and solo/ensemble music. This group performs many times during the school year for community activities, school functions, district and state contests, and special performances.

Symphonic Band (1.0 credit) - The MHS Symphonic Band meets for two trimesters, and is open to all students in grades 9 through 12 who play a brass, percussion, or woodwind instrument. This group prepares band students for entering the Wind Symphony. Enrollment will be by audition and director(s) recommendation. This performance-based class will include concert, jazz, and solo ensemble music. This group performs many times during the school year for community activities, school functions, district and state contests, and special performances. Ninth grade students must also be enrolled in the Marching Band during the fall of their freshman year.

Wind Symphony (1.5 credits – 3 trimesters) - A highly select group performing the finest in wind literature, in which sophomores may participate with the Honors Wind Symphony. Proper instrumental technique, ear training skills, music theory, and appropriate rehearsal/performance disciplines will be taught and maintained within the group throughout the three trimesters. Enrollment is by audition and director(s) recommendation. This performance-based class will include A/AA concert literature and solo and ensemble music. Students selected must be available for rehearsals after school, public performances, solo and ensemble adjudicated events, and OMEA district and state contests. Sophomores will be introduced to and adjust to the demands of advance instrumental technique while playing advanced literature in preparation for their instrumental leadership in the junior/senior years. Although they will be participating with the Honors Wind Symphony, sophomores will not receive honors credit. Participation in OMEA adjudicated events for all levels will be required.

Honors Wind Symphony (1.5 credits – 3 trimesters) - The MHS Honors Wind Symphony is a highly select group who performs the finest in wind literature. Proper instrumental technique, ear training skills, music theory, and appropriate rehearsal/performance disciplines will be taught and maintained within the group throughout the three trimesters. Enrollment is by audition and director(s) recommendation. This performance-based class will include A/AA concert literature and solo and ensemble music. Students selected must be available for rehearsals after school, public performances, solo and ensemble adjudicated events, and OMEA district and state contests. Within the class, sophomores will be taking Level I as described above and will not receive honors credit. Juniors will be taking Level II of the course, complete additional requirements and will receive honors credit. Seniors will be taking Level III of the course, complete advanced requirements and will receive honors credit. Participation in OMEA adjudicated events for all levels will be required. All students must adhere to the honors requirements.

Jazz Band - this is a specialized band that concentrates on jazz music. Entrance is by audition. Any band member can become a member of this band. Rehearsals are after school during the 2nd and 3rd trimester and they perform at the winter and spring concert.

AP Music Theory – this is an academic music course that teaches students the fundamental elements of music, such as keys, chords, form, part writing, and counterpoint. The course culminates in an Advanced Placement exam for which the students can receive college credit.

Pep Band - provides entertainment and spirit for boys and girls varsity basketball home games. All band students are expected to participate in a number of pep band performances. Rehearsals, if called, are before games.

Winter Percussion - this is a group that performs solely on percussion instruments. They practice from November through April with competitions throughout that time. This program meets every other years. This is an extra curricular activity with entrance by audition only, for students in the band program.

Winter Guard – through the winter and early spring this guard group performs at MEPA and WGI sanctioned competitions. Its members improve and display their skills on flags, rifles, &/or sabers. Entrance is by audition, rehearsals are after school.

Musical Pit Orchestra - this group provides the musical accompaniment for the annual school musical. Entrance is by audition with

rehearsals after school.

Solo & Ensemble Contest - this is an offering of the Ohio Music Education Association for all vocal and instrumental students in an Ohio school. All band department students can enter. This is a requirement for students in Wind Symphony. Performance is on a Saturday late in January or early February at a high school in our district.

Concert Bands Adjudicated Event - this is an adjudicated performance Mason Bands will participate in during the spring on a Friday night or a Saturday. Each band performs at their own level and are judged by several judges for performance and sight reading and given a rating (I, II, III, IV).

District Honor Band, All State Jazz Band, All State Concert Band & All State Orchestra - these are extra curricular honor bands organized on a statewide basis. Entrance is by audition.

MEET THE DIRECTORS AT MASON HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. Robert Bass

-Director of Bands at Mason High School since 1999.

-Is a native of Greensburg, Ohio.

-He received his Bachelor degree in Music Education and Euphonium Performance from the University of Cincinnati, College Conservatory of Music in 1985.

-Mr. Bass has been a guest conductor and clinician throughout the United States.

-Prior to his appointment at Mason, Mr. Bass taught one year at Williamsburg High School (Williamsburg, OH) and two years at Green Junior High School (Green, OH) and ten years at Fairborn High School (Fairborn, OH).

-Bands under Mr. Bass' direction have performed at The Midwest International Band and Orchestra Clinic, O.M.E.A. State Conventions, and Bands of America National Concert Band Festival as the first representative from the state of Ohio.

-Bands conducted by Mr. Bass have consistently received superior ratings and have been awarded numerous honors in concert and marching events.

-Mr. Bass' responsibilities include director of the Wind Symphony, Concert Band White, Marching Band, Pep Band, and musical director for Mason City Schools.

- He is a member of Music Educators National Conference, Ohio Music Education Association, and Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia.

-Mr. Bass' wife Susan, is a band director at Mason Middle School. They have one son, Andrew.

Mr. Micah Ewing

-Director of Bands at Mason High School since 2002.

-Grew up near Louisville, Kentucky and graduated from Oldham County High School.

-Participated in Concert and Marching Bands, Pit Orchestra, and various brass quintets and garage bands.

-Member of 1991 Bluecoats and 1993 Blue Devils.

-Graduated from Miami University with Bachelor Degree in Music Education and Music Performance.

-Received M.M. in Wind/Band Conducting from Northwestern University.

-Guest conducted Miami University Wind Ensemble and Symphony Band, Northwestern University Symphonic Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band, Northshore Concert Band, and Bethel Benefit Brass Choir.

-Taught at School for Creative and Performing Arts in Cincinnati from 1998 to 2002.

-Mr. Ewing's responsibilities include director of the Symphonic Band, Concert Band Green, Marching Band, and Pep Band.

-He is married to Cathy with two sons, Jonah and Aaron.

Mr. Avious Jackson

-Avious Jackson is a native of Riverside, Ohio

-In 2004, he received his bachelor's degree in Music Education from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio

- Prior to joining the Mason staff, Mr. Jackson taught at Stebbins High School in the Mad River Local School District
- While there, he served as Chair of the district's Music Department, while directing both bands and orchestras through many successful performances including consistent qualification for state level events
- Mr. Jackson is a member of Music Educators National Conference, Ohio Music Education Association, and Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia.

2009 STAFF FOR THE MASON HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND

(Subject to change)

Band Directors

Robert Bass
Micah Ewing
Avious Jackson
Susan Bass
Kyle Young
Jason Sleppy
Chad Fourman

Music Director

Robert Bass

Visual Directors

Susan Bass
Brian Kraft

Brass Director

Micah Ewing

Percussion Directors

Jason Sleppy
Robert Cooney

Woodwind Director

Kyle Young

Guard Director

Dustin Caromano

Music Designer

Daniel Montoya Jr.

Drill Designer

Kevin Nix

Contact Us At:

Bob Bass
398-2798 ext. 30271
bassb@mason.k12.oh.us

Micah Ewing
398-2798 ext. 34101
ewingm@mason.k12.oh.us

MARCHING BAND POLICIES

Attendance Policy

- All rehearsals and performances are mandatory. Attendance will be taken at all rehearsals and performances.
- Written excuses signed by a parent or guardian are required before or immediately following an absence. Students need to present a note from their parents or guardian to be excused for illness or family emergencies. Students may not resume activities with the band until a written excuse has been presented to the director in charge.
- Students who are tardy to any scheduled event will need to provide a written excuse before participation with the band may continue.
- All working students should provide their employers with the summer and fall schedules included in this handbook, thus providing a means of eliminating schedule conflicts.
- Conflicts with other school organizations will be taken into consideration provided: A) The directors are informed in writing, by the student, one week in advance of the conflict. B) The student must be in good standing according to the rules and regulations and grade requirements of the organization.
- An unexcused absence from a "performance night" rehearsal, may result in the loss of position or suspension for the upcoming weekend performance.

SPECIAL NOTE: An unexcused absence may result in the loss of your position, suspension and/or expulsion from the group at the discretion of the director.

The goal of our attendance policy is to provide information to students, parents, and directors when there is an attendance problem. The safety and security of our members are a priority.

Reserve Marcher Policy

What is a reserve marcher?

Starting with the 2006 marching band have had reserve marchers. Most competitive, large, high school marching bands have reserve marchers. A reserve marcher is a student who will not be written in the competitive marching show. The duties of the reserve marcher will be to assist and help with props, memorize all music, learn all fundamentals, be involved in all trips, football games, pre game, parades, and special performance opportunities, and be ready to take a regular marcher's position if he/she does not fulfill their position in the competitive show. In a nut shell, a reserve marcher does everything that a regular marcher does except for marching 100% of the time in the competitive show.

Who selects a regular marcher versus a reserve marcher?

The staff that is hired by Mason City Schools will consult with Bob Bass as to their recommendations. Bob Bass, the head Marching Band Director, will make all the final decisions. Criteria used will be shared with all members and families the beginning of July. The criteria given in July will have the approval of the band directors and the high school administrator in charge of the performing arts department. A sample of criteria would be attendance, music memorization, body coordination (marching and dance), and a healthy cooperative attitude.

Why are we having reserve marchers this year?

There are two reasons for creating reserve marchers. One is that the show has been written for a specific number of students. In the past, we received our drill maneuvers late because we tried to involve all of our students in the competition show. This policy created a "catch up" form of rehearsals and always put our students behind the other bands because our drill came very late. Sometimes our drill did not get to us until October leaving only a few weeks left in our season. The second reason is that we experienced attendance, lack of music memorization, and work ethic issues over the past few years that we must not accept this year. It is vital that all members are at practices. When one person is missing, it affects the entire group. Last year, the marching band did not have a full group at any football game or competition. If you relate the marching band to a sport activity, if the quarterback is missing from a practice or performance, then the team suffers greatly. We hope that the reserve marcher policy will correct some of the slight problems we have had in the past.

CRITERIA FOR PERFORMANCE IN THE COMPETITION MARCHING SHOW:

Music:

During Home Camp (August 3-7), students will be tested on (memorized) the Fight Song, Alma Mater, God Bless America, Star Spangled Banner and Hang On Sloopy. During Away Band camp (August 10-14), students will be tested on (memorized) the competition Marching Band show.

Drill:

Students will perform Box Drill A & B.

Attendance:

Students will be in attendance at both Band Camps unless an understanding was reached between Mr. Bass and the family involved with the schedule conflict. Students will communicate through writing all attendance issues. Excessive tardiness or missed rehearsals/performances will subject the student to reserve marcher status.

Summary:

Students can move from reserve status to competitive status or visa versa throughout the marching season. All students will march in all parades, community events, and football pre-game shows. We will do our best to involve all students in a portion of our competition marching show.

Roles and Positions in Marching Band

All part assignments and positions are subject to change for the benefit of the band and the individual.

Mason City Schools Code of Conduct

A firm and fair policy of enforcement is necessary to uphold the regulations and standards of the Music Department. The community, school administrators, and the music staff feel strongly that high standards of conduct and citizenship are essential in maintaining a sound program in Music Education. The welfare of the student is our major consideration and transcends any other consideration.

All band members shall abide by a Code of Conduct, which will earn them the honor and respect that participation in the Co-Curricular Music Program affords. Any conduct that results in dishonor to the musician, the Marching Band or the school will not be tolerated. Acts of unacceptable conduct include but are not limited to theft, vandalism, disrespect, immorality or violations of law. Tarnishing the reputation of those associated with Mason City Schools and the Music Program will not be tolerated.

Students participating in the Marching Band must conduct themselves as mature young men and women. Participation in co-curricular programs is a privilege and not a right. Any band member whose conduct could be construed to reflect discredit upon the band and/or the school, will be subject to disciplinary action as determined by the music staff and/or administration. Issues of misconduct, which are not directly stated within this document, will be dealt with on an individual basis. This is an extension of the Mason City Schools Student Code of Conduct.

Marching Band Expectations

1. Treat all members with mutual respect.
2. Be punctual and in your designated area at all times. Being "On time" in band language means ten minutes prior to the scheduled starting time.
3. Profanity/disrespect will not be tolerated at any time.
4. It is the responsibility of each member to have all equipment and other pertinent items at all rehearsals (drill books, music, pencils, etc.) Likewise, it is just as important to make sure everything is put away and stored in its proper place after rehearsal.
5. The only public display of affection (physical contact) between boyfriend and girlfriend allowed while under the jurisdiction of the

Mason High School Music Staff is that of holding hands.

Practice Clothing

1. Tennis shoes only (canvas or leather). No sandals, dress, or street shoes. (The need for freedom and flexibility in the ankle along with the placement of the heels and toes together is critical!)
2. Shorts, sweats, jeans, must not be binding.
3. Always wear socks for good personal hygiene to avoid foot injury such as blisters.
4. Any non-binding shirt is preferred for marching activities.
5. Due to the risk of personal injury, no dangling jewelry (i.e. earrings) will be permitted at any time.

GUARD MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE: Your hair must be pulled back and out of your face. Make sure this is done before practice. (This is recommended for any band member who has longer than shoulder length hair.)

PROCEDURES

Discipline Procedure

1. Records will be kept concerning all violations of the rules in this handbook. Should it be necessary to reprimand any student for violation of these rules, we will follow these guidelines:
 - A. The **first** violation of any rule will result in a verbal warning.
 - B. The **second** violation of any rule will result in a verbal warning and an extra duty assignment handed out by the directors.
 - C. The **third** violation of any rule will result in a verbal warning and an extra duty assignment handed out by the directors, and the loss of third quarter privilege.
 - D. The **fourth** violation of any rule will result in the suspension from a performance (i.e. pre-game, half-time, or contest).
 - E. The **fifth** violation of any rule will result in the loss of position, and suspension or expulsion from the group.(Note: a violation that is considered severe will bypass the above steps and be handled immediately by directors and school administration)

Direct communication with a student's parents will occur at the second step and will continue through the fifth step. We believe open communication with parents is an essential part of the success of the student in our organization.

2. In order to establish an organization with pride, unity, and self-discipline, we must enforce the rules set forth by the directors and members of this organization. Every effort will be made to be fair and just with all members. Should any student or parent have a question concerning any disciplinary action, contact the director(s) immediately.

*During third quarter of the football games, band members are allowed to get refreshments and meet with friends. If a student loses third quarter privileges, he/she must sit in the bleachers for the duration of third quarter at the next football game.

Uniform Inspection

Prior to performances, members must pass through an inspection of their uniform and equipment. This is done so we can have the best appearance possible, to develop good personal habits, and pride. The following criteria have been established for achieving a clean and uniform look in our band:

1. No jewelry is to be worn while in uniform.
2. No nail polish is to be worn while in uniform.
3. A short or long sleeved shirt (preferably the band tour shirt or summer band shirt) must be worn under the uniform coat. (This is necessary for proper personal hygiene and uniformity.)

4. Black socks will be worn while in uniform.
5. Hair must not cover the collar when hats are worn. Any member with long hair must pin their hair up.
6. All uniform parts must be worn properly.
7. When not performing, but still in uniform, all members may remove only gloves and hats unless the directors issue another directive.

Color Guard Uniforms

The color guard's marching uniform tends to change each year by what the show design and theme requires. Most of the uniform is provided by the band but there may be some individual items that color guard members need to provide and remains their property at the end of the season.

Marching Band Uniforms

Summer marching uniforms consist of summer shirts, purchased from the band, khaki shorts or pants depending on the weather (designated in advance), white socks and white tennis shoes. Summer shirts and shoes can be charged to the student's band account if there is a positive balance. The shoes and socks are the student's responsibility to obtain before the first summer performance.

The marching band uniforms are provided for each student by the band. The uniform consists of a jacket, high-waisted pants, gauntlets, black marching shoes, hat, and plume. They can be cumbersome to put on but really look sharp. Extra parent hands are always needed to get so many marchers in uniform in a short amount of time. Fittings and alterations will be done by the Uniform Committee during August. Volunteers are always needed for hemming.

The students should wear tour T-shirts (provided by the band) and shorts under their uniforms. This makes dressing much easier because there is no privacy when changing into uniforms. At competitions dressing is done out in the parking lot and in the band room for football games.

Tour Shirts

Sometime in mid August each student will be provided with a tour shirt. Each year there is a new tour shirt representing the show that is being performed that year. Students are expected to wear their tour shirts when they travel to competitions so when they are out of uniform it is easy for chaperones to spot Mason students. Please remind your student to always wear their tour shirt.

Student Leadership Teams

Both Marching Band and Concert Bands have a student leadership team. The Marching Band leadership is comprised of students who have submitted an application packet for the leadership team. The team is then chosen by the directors. The Concert Bands' leadership team is voted on by the students and consists of a President, Vice President, Secretary, and Class representatives from all grade levels. It is an opportunity for students to take on additional responsibilities that develop leadership skills. They are also the directors' eyes and ears of the band. Together, they work to make the band the best it can be. If your student has a problem and doesn't know where to turn, or doesn't feel comfortable talking to the director, a member of this group is the person they could talk to. That person then takes the problem to the leadership team and they will suggest a solution or bring the problem to the director's attention then together, they will work it out. Who knows, maybe your student is not the only one who is having the same problem. This is also the group who knows what is going on and can be a source of information to your student. If you or your student have any questions or aren't sure that the information heard through the grapevine is correct, ask one of the student leaders.

Chaperones

These are the parents that travel with the students every time they leave the school, primarily for football games and competitions. The majority of chaperoning opportunities occur during Marching Band season but there are also several opportunities during Concert Band season when the band travels to OMEA Adjudicated Events in the spring. Sign ups for chaperoning is done in the summer months but anyone can volunteer by calling the head chaperone. **Chaperones cover their own expenses.**

Pit Crew

This group is responsible for getting all the instruments, uniforms, guard equipment, props, and other items to performances. They are also responsible for getting pit equipment, drum major podiums, and props on and off the field in a timely manner. Some building and painting may be involved. This is accomplished by a dedicated committee that can have a lot of fun together.

Communication

The band tries very hard to keep the lines of communication open. The main avenues are:

1. Website – www.masonbands.com Updates from the directors and the boosters will be posted on the link “Bulletin Board”. Please check out our site.
2. “One Call Now” Communication Service – please see below for the details of this new communication method.
3. Monthly booster meetings - these are usually held the 1st Thursday of every month in the band room at 7:30 pm. All parents are encouraged to attend. If the time, date, or place of the meeting changes you will be notified in advance by email or in the newsletter. This is a great opportunity to have input in the direction the band goes and is also a good opportunity to meet other parents and ask questions of the band directors.
4. Email – boosters manage an email database for communicating with band parents.
5. Students - all the pertinent information is communicated to your students either verbally or sometimes with a flier. This, at times, is the least reliable means of getting information so prior to big events (competitions, trips, etc.) you may want to ask your student if information has been sent home with them or check the website.

Questions and/or concerns should be communicated first directly to one or both of the directors.

One Call Now Communication Service

The Mason Marching Band has signed up for a new service to allow better communication of information to students and parents. The service is called One Call Now, which is a telephone message delivery system. Some of you may be familiar with this service from sport leagues or scouts. The service calls your phone number and plays a pre-recorded message with information relative to your son/daughter.

With this system, the band directors will be able to let parents and students know of changes to practices, arrival times, and cancellation of practice, event, or other important information that is critical to inform everyone in a quick fashion. The system will also be used to let parents know of arrival times to pick up students after away competitions, football games, and scores and outcomes of competitions if they could not personally attend.

Full participation is needed for the system to be effective so we will automatically sign you up with the telephone number listed in this year’s Green Book Band Roster. Each family is allowed to have 2 phone numbers listed. There is an online form on the band website. Following the links for Marching Band and One Call if you wish to change the phone number to be notified to a cell phone, work phone, etc. or to add an additional number.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Financial Responsibility

1. All fees are paid to Mason City Schools but will be collected the first day of band camp. Payment can be cash, or check.
2. Any member who enters the program and decides later to stop participating is still responsible for all debts incurred for the program.
3. Financial hardships may be brought to the attention of Mr. Bass for consideration of financial help by **July 1st**. All correspondence will be strictly confidential. Please email bassb@mason.k12.oh.us

Marching Band Fee

The fee for the Mason High School Marching Band for the 2009 season is \$375 and is due August 3rd. The marching band fee, plus funds raised by the boosters, covers home band camp, music, drill, admission competitions, hotel accommodations, meals, charter buses (when required), and other small expenditures. The Mason Band Directors and Boosters will maintain the budget.

Away Band Camp

A separate charge of \$225 for away band camp is due July 28. In a year when the band goes away to camp this is an additional charge and a carwash fundraiser is provided for all students to participate in which gives them the opportunity to completely raise the full cost of away band camp.

**Make one check payable to MASON CITY SCHOOLS
All fees are due August 3rd, first day of band camp
\$375 marching band fee and \$225 away band camp fee = \$600**

(\$100 deposit and fundraiser monies will be deducted from the total.)

Refund Policy

Each student is responsible for payment of fees and camp costs. If for some reason the student is not able to finish out the entire season the refund policy is as follows:

	<u>Total \$600</u>
End of band camp (student pays away camp cost, cost of music, drill, and partial uniform cost.)	\$225 refunded
End of August	\$200 refunded
End of September	\$100 refunded
End of October	\$ 0 refunded

Personal Items

Each band member will be required to obtain band shoes and a summer shirt. If taken care of, these items should last four years of marching band. These items can be purchased through the band boosters during band camp.

PERSONAL ITEMS BAND MEMBERS	Band Shoes	\$33.00
	Band Shirt	<u>\$22.00</u>
		\$55.00

Fundraising

The band does several types of fundraising to offset the expenses incurred by the band program and to keep students fees as low as possible. All band families are expected to participate in fundraising activities because all benefit. Fundraisers are divided into 3 categories:

The boosters actively fundraise for the band program to benefit ALL band students. There are several types of fundraisers determined by where the funds are held.

1. Band General Account Fundraisers - all the funds raised by students go to the band's general account to defray costs and keep band fees as low as possible. These fundraisers include Tag Day, October Sale, and Spring Flower Sale. Student participation is crucial or fees will increase.
2. Booster Account Fundraisers – Football Concessions and the Mason Marching Band Competition are sponsored by the band booster organization which uses these funds to financially support the band budget. We need marching band parents willing participation in both of these fundraisers as all marching band students benefit significantly. Expenditure of booster funds are approved by the band directors and booster membership.

SCHEDULE INFORMATION

Fall Practice Schedule

- One afternoon Sectional rehearsal per week (Only if Scheduled)
- Two night rehearsals per week from 6:00-8:45pm

Throughout the course of our season, we hope to reduce our practice schedule. Provided the total band has reached satisfactory levels of performance and the individual members have passed their music levels, the sectionals rehearsals could be eliminated.

PSAT, SAT, and ACT Test Dates

Please try to schedule the test dates around the marching band competition dates. Any student not at a competition has a significant overall affect on the performance.

ACT - test dates not published as of this printing – please check with your band competition schedule before scheduling the ACT

SAT - test dates not published as of this printing – please check with your band competition schedule before scheduling the SAT

PSAT - Wednesday, October 14, 2009

Marching Band Camp

Band Camp is a time for the students to get to know one another, learn or perfect their marching fundamentals, learn and memorize the music, learn the drill (the designed show), and start to put together the best performance that they can as a single unified team. It can be a very intense, physically demanding, and at times, frustrating for the students, but ultimately the rewards are worth it. Please see that your student is well nourished at breakfast and dinner and gets a lot of sleep.

If a student misses any of band camp, they can have a difficult time catching up and feeling like a part of the group. Therefore, all students are asked to set aside that 2 weeks of their summer and devote it to band/guard - no working, babysitting, or vacation. Please schedule family vacations so your student won't miss any of the band camp activities/practices.

This is also a wonderful opportunity for you, as parents, to volunteer to help and as a side benefit get to know other band parents. Parents provide invaluable services during band camp by overseeing first aid, supplying water and snacks, moving equipment, watching over the building during free time, being surrogate moms and dads, providing a friendly face for a stressed out marcher, and being a support to the directors.

This year we will have part of band camp at an away site and part at our home site – Mason High School. Parents are responsible for providing transportation to and from the home camp site, making sure your student brings a sack lunch, water bottle, sunscreen, and whatever else they need (i.e. sunglasses, hat, bug spray, etc) to camp each day so they are comfortable. The band will provide them with a 3 ring binder for their music and a drill book that needs to also come to camp each day.

Marching Band Practices

The after school and evening rehearsals are very important. They allow the students to continue to refine and polish the music and drill learned during band camp. Drill and music are constantly being refined/changed to make the show the best it can be, so please ensure that your student regularly attends.

Parents are welcome to sit in on a marching band or guard rehearsal. It is fun to see the marching band go from 250 individual marchers to a very cohesive group. When you visit, we ask a couple of things:

1. Please be as quiet as possible and stay away from the immediately marching area.
2. Please be flexible enough to help out if needed

A visit may give you a better understanding of some of the stories you hear from the students and other parents. It will also show you the dedication of the students and directors. You may also find that your student is a lot stronger and more dedicated than you thought. It is interesting to look back over the years and see that some of the biggest complainers in the younger years have grown to be some of the best band members and leaders in the later years.

Summer Performance

Traditionally the marching band participates in 3 community events: the Memorial Day Parade, the Heritage Day Parade, and St. Susanna's Festival. The dress for events is the summer uniforms:

Summer band shirts
Khaki shorts (unless specified otherwise)
White socks
White tennis shoes

It is your responsibility to provide your student with the last 3 plus purchase the summer marching shirt from the band (\$22). This item can be paid for from the student's student account if there is a positive balance.

Football Games

MHS Marching Band performs at every home football game and selected away games. They perform portions of, or sometimes the entire Marching Band Show at halftime of the game. This is always an opportunity to work on perfecting the show and learning to perform to an audience. Every student is required to attend these games and any absence needs to be discussed with the director.

During the game the band sits together, plays pep tunes, and generally has a lot of fun. They perform during half time and then get the third quarter off to get refreshments, visit friends, and relax. All students remain in their uniforms during the entire game.

In preparation for the performance, parents are needed in the band room to help get students into uniforms (previous experience not needed!), and, of course, work concessions.

Band Contest/Performances

Despite what your student might say, parents and families are always invited to any and all performances. We try to make it a practice to sit as a group at a contest or performance to cheer our students on. Nothing is better for the students than to give their best performance and get a standing ovation from the parents acknowledging all their hard work. Not only do the parents support the students by coming, but there are always opportunities to help get the students into uniform, help distribute lunch, help load and unload, etc. Each is a rewarding and fun job. Maps or directions to competitions are always available several days prior and are usually emailed out or are also in print for your student to bring home.

Practice/Performance Schedule

A lot of time is spent putting a band schedule together deciding all dates and times up front so students and parents can plan accordingly, and we endeavor to change the schedule as seldom as possible. A few reasons for schedule changes are:

- a) the students haven't been working as hard in practice as they should and additional practices need to be scheduled or practice time extended
- b) a competition/game has been canceled or rescheduled which is out of the director's control
- c) new opportunities to showcase the student's talents become available after the schedule is published

TBA Times

Competitions don't inform the directors of their performance time until about a week before the performance. Therefore, the "big picture" schedule will indicate the day to keep open and the specific times will be passed on to the students as soon as the director knows. This can be frustrating for overall scheduling for families but it is out of the director's control.

Rule of Thumb: If the day is scheduled for a Band performance/practice, keep the entire day open

Schedules for the TBA performances are almost always available one week prior to the performance and will be communicated via the band email database and verbally to your students.

Things that may not be included in the "big picture" schedule:

1. If the leader of a section feels the section needs to practice at a time other than the full band rehearsal, they have the authority to call a rehearsal. These sectional rehearsals usually occur in marching band season or concert season directly after school but won't be called if your student's section is performing well during the full band rehearsal.
2. If your student participates in an ensemble which goes to Solo & Ensemble contest in late January or early February, there will be some extra practices scheduled. The dates and times are determined by the members of the ensemble on an "as needed basis." Also, if they are performing a solo with an accompanist extra practices will need to be scheduled.

2009 MASON HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND (SCHEDULE AS OF 5/29/08)

Summer Calendar Prior to band camp is on the band web calendar
<http://www.masonbands.com/Calendar/default.asp>

8/3/09	Home Band Camp	9am-5pm	10/12/09	Marching Band Rehearsal Color Guard	3-5:45pm 6-8:30pm
8/4/09	Home Band Camp	9am-5pm	10/13/09	Woodwind/Brass Rehearsal	3-5pm
8/5/09	Home Band Camp	9am-5pm	10/14/09	Percussion Color Guard	3-5pm 6-8:30pm
8/6/09	Home Band Camp	9am-5pm	10/15/09	Marching Band Rehearsal	6-8:45pm
8/7/09	Home Band Camp	9am-5pm	10/16/09	Depart St. Louis	TBD
8/8/09	Tag Day	9am-2pm	10/16/09	Home Game - Colerain	Evening
8/10/09	Away Band Camp - Xenia	All Day	10/17/09	BOA Regionals St. Louis	All Day
8/11/09	Away Band Camp - Xenia	All Day	10/19/09	Marching Band Rehearsal Color Guard	3-5:45pm 6-8:30pm
8/12/09	Away Band Camp - Xenia	All Day	10/20/09	Woodwind/Brass Rehearsal	3-5pm
8/13/09	Away Band Camp - Xenia	All Day	10/21/09	Percussion Color Guard	3-5pm 6-8:30pm
8/14/09	Away Band Camp - Xenia	All Day	10/22/09	Marching Band Rehearsal	6-8:45pm
8/17/09	Marching Band Rehearsal	8am-12pm	10/23/09	Away Game - Fairfield	Evening
8/18/09	Marching Band Rehearsal	8am-12pm	10/24/09	Mason Band Competition	All Day
8/19/09	Marching Band Rehearsal	8am-12pm	10/26/09	Marching Band Rehearsal Color Guard	3-5:45pm 6-8:30pm
8/20/09	Marching Band Rehearsal	8am-12pm	10/27/09	Woodwind/Brass Rehearsal	3-5pm
8/21/09	Marching Band Rehearsal	8am-12pm	10/28/09	Percussion Color Guard	3-5pm 6-8:30pm
8/22/09	Heritage Day Parade	10am	10/29/09	Marching Band Rehearsal	6-8:45pm
8/24/09	Marching Band Rehearsal	8am-12pm	10/30/09	Home Game - Sycamore	Evening
8/25/09	Marching Band Rehearsal	8am-12pm	10/31/09	Band Rehearsal	9am-9pm
8/26/09	Marching Band Rehearsal	8am-12pm	11/2/09	Wall2Wall (Tent.)	3-5pm
8/27/09	First Day of School	7:15am-2:45pm	11/3/09	Wall2Wall (Tent.)	3-5pm
8/28/09	Away Game - Trotwood-Madison	Evening	11/4/09	Wall2Wall (Tent.)	2-5pm
8/31/09	Marching Band Rehearsal	3-5:45pm	11/5/09	Wall2Wall (Tent.)	3-5pm
9/1/09	Woodwind/Brass Rehearsal	3-5pm	11/6/09	Wall2Wall (Tent.)	3-5pm
9/2/09	Percussion Color Guard	3-5pm 6-8:30pm	11/7/09	MSBA Championship @ Kings MB is competing at Kings	All Day
9/3/09	Marching Band Rehearsal	6-8:45pm	11/7/09	MSBA Championship @ Mason Boosters run competition at Mason	All Day
9/4/09	Home Game - Centerville	Evening	11/9/09	Wall2Wall	3-5pm
9/8/09	Woodwind/Brass Rehearsal	3-5pm	11/10/09	Wall2Wall	3-5pm
9/9/09	Percussion Color Guard	3-5pm 6-8:30pm	11/11/09	Wall2Wall	2-5pm
9/10/09	Marching Band Rehearsal	6-8:45pm	11/12/09	BOA Grand Nationals	Evening
9/11/09	Away Game - Gahanna-Lincoln	Evening	11/13/09	BOA Grand Nationals	All Day
9/11/09	Mini Camp	6-9pm	11/14/09	BOA Grand Nationals	All Day
9/12/09	Mini Camp	9am-9pm	11/23/09	Marching Band Banquet	6-8pm
9/13/09	St. Susanna's Festival	3:30-4pm			
9/14/09	Marching Band Rehearsal Color Guard	3-5:45pm 6-8:30pm			
9/15/09	Woodwind/Brass Rehearsal	3-5pm			
9/16/09	Percussion Color Guard	3-5pm 6-8:30pm			
9/17/09	Marching Band Rehearsal	6-8:45pm			
9/18/09	Away Game - Oak Hills	Evening			
9/21/09	Marching Band Rehearsal Color Guard	3-5:45pm 6-8:30pm			
9/22/09	Woodwind/Brass Rehearsal	3-5pm			
9/23/09	Percussion Color Guard	3-5pm 6-8:30pm			
9/24/09	Marching Band Rehearsal	6-8:45pm			
9/25/09	Home Game - Middletown	Evening			
9/26/09	MSBA Competition - Bellbrook	TBD			
9/28/09	Marching Band Rehearsal Color Guard	3-5:45pm 6-8:30pm			
9/29/09	Woodwind/Brass Rehearsal	3-5pm			
9/30/09	Percussion Color Guard	3-5pm 6-8:30pm			
10/1/09	Marching Band Rehearsal	6-8:45pm			
10/2/09	Away Game - Lakota West	Evening			
10/3/09	BOA Regional Centerville	TBD			
10/5/09	Marching Band Rehearsal Color Guard	3-5:45pm 6-8:30pm			
10/6/09	Woodwind/Brass Rehearsal	3-5pm			
10/7/09	Percussion Color Guard	3-5pm 6-8:30pm			
10/8/09	Marching Band Rehearsal	6-8:45pm			
10/9/09	Home Game - Hamilton	Evening			

FORMS

**All Forms except Absence/Tardy Forms are in the Band Camp Packet.
These are due at registration August 3rd.**

Absence/Tardy Excuse Forms

You will find excuse forms for absences or tardies. Please use these forms when necessary. DO NOT TURN THIS FORM IN WITH THE OTHER FORMS.

Agreement Form

The final page is an agreement form. The purpose of this form is to confirm for students, parents, and directors the responsibilities and commitments associated with participation in the marching band. This form signifies an understanding of the content of this handbook and a commitment to abide by its content. Please sign and turn in at band camp registration.

Absence or Tardiness Form

Name

Reason for absence or Tardiness:

Parent Signature

Date Absent

Date Submitted

Absence or Tardiness Form

Name

Reason for absence or Tardiness:

Parent Signature

Date Absent

Date Submitted

Absence or Tardiness Form

Name

Reason for absence or Tardiness:

Parent Signature

Date Absent

Date Submitted

Absence or Tardiness Form

Name

Reason for absence or Tardiness:

Parent Signature

Date Absent

Date Submitted

2009 MASON HIGH SCHOOL
MARCHING BAND AGREEMENT

Summer and Fall Attendance and Work Policy Student-Parent Agreement

We (Student and Parent/Guardian) agree to the following:

1. To not leave the school grounds during rehearsals for any reason without the permission of Mr. Bass or Mr. Ewing.
2. To attend all rehearsals and performances during the summer and fall marching band season unless excused by Mr. Bass or Mr. Ewing.
3. To not use work as an excuse to (1) miss rehearsals or performances, (2) leave rehearsals or performances early, or (3) arrive to rehearsals or performances late.

(Date)

(Student Signature)

(Parent/Guardian Signature)

I understand the information contained in the 2008 Marching Band Handbook and that all part assignments and positions are subject to change for the benefit of the band and the individual. I will abide by the regulations therein. Should I have any questions or concerns, I will contact Mr. Bass or Mr. Ewing immediately to eliminate any confusion.

Student signature: _____

Parent signature: _____

Primary Parent Email Address (for band database):
