

**Marion  
Center  
Marching  
Band  
Handbook  
2014-2015**

Jon Schaller, Band Director  
Rebecca Blashock, Asst. Band Director

Dear Band Members and Parents,

Welcome to the Marion Center Area High School Marching Band. The purpose of this handbook is to provide you with information about Marion Center's marching band program. This handbook will outline basic expectations in this extracurricular ensemble as well as overall behavioral and equipment expectations. To meet the standards of excellence that is expected by this organization, it is expected that every student and his or her parent be familiarized with the policies outlined within this handbook.

The marching band is the ensemble that is most visible to the community. The marching band is a representative of the school and its students within the community. Membership of the marching band is open to any concert band student (except students interested in the auxiliary units) in grades 7-12. Because of the marching band's status as extra-curricular, it is not required for instrumental music students to participate. However, it is strongly encouraged and expected, since a good amount of class time will be spent on the marching band literature during in-school class time. Practices will be held twice a week after school along with a pre-performance practice before football games. More or fewer practices are possible but students will be notified far in advance. A required week-long "band camp" will be held three weeks prior to the start of school to learn and rehearse the field-show for the upcoming fall. Students are expected to participate for the full year. Primary performances of the marching band include but are not limited to: home and away football games, homecoming, Memorial Day, and summer festival parades. A schedule of all practice and performance obligations for the fall semester will be given during the week of summer band camp.

It is hoped that the majority of questions that students and parents may have regarding our marching band program is answered within the pages of this handbook. However, if this handbook does not answer a problem or question that may arise, the student and/or parent should seek out my explanation. Let's continue the strong tradition of Marion Center Marching Band by making this year our best!

Best regards,

Jon Schaller, Band Director

## ATTENDANCE POLICIES

- **Rehearsals**

Attendance at every rehearsal is expected. In case of emergency, illness, or conflict the director should be notified BEFORE the rehearsal. In any case, a written excuse from a parent or guardian is required for attendance records. Please arrange doctor's appointments, work schedules, etc to avoid conflict with ensemble rehearsals since these are considered unexcused reasons for absence. Rehearsal schedules will be given out well in advance to avoid conflict. Should a conflict arise, please notify the director as soon as possible. Students involved with extra-curricular sports must split their time evenly between marching band and their sports. If a rehearsal conflicts with another school related activity such as a sports game, meet, or match, the student may be excused from rehearsal.

- **Performances**

Attendance at every performance is mandatory. Conflicts with scheduled performances MUST be discussed with the director BEFORE the performance date.

- **Summer Parades**

The band's summer parade season consists of approximately four parades and runs from the Memorial Day Parade in May through early August. Please note at times there could be a need to add to the schedule. Parades are an opportunity to perform in the surrounding communities and promote the good name of Marion Center. Our local communities support our fundraising and assist us in our musical endeavors so it is imperative that we support these parade events. The band uses the prize money gained from these performances to supplement our budget and purchase needed items for the band. Participation in the summer parade season is important and attendance is strongly encouraged. However, conflicts are inevitable and will be considered for excuse by the director on a case-by-case basis.

- **Football Season**

The fall football season is the core of the marching season. This starts at the beginning of band camp and continues through the last football game of the season including playoff games. Throughout the season, we learn musical, marching, and drill techniques. Because the band rehearses and performs its music to a marching drill, it is critical for each student to attend each rehearsal and performance, otherwise holes and gaps in formations will occur. The student must participate in at least one full hour of band practice during the week to be able to perform in that week's football halftime performance. If the student does not meet the attendance guidelines, he or she will sit on the sidelines for the performance and lose 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter privileges.

## *REHEARSAL AND PERFORMANCE PROCEDURES*

- Rehearsals are designed to learn about music, develop listening and playing skills, and solve problems as an ensemble.
- It is through rehearsal that we as a performing ensemble are able to set goals and work to achieve these goals for a set performance. However it is up to the individual to ensure that he or she is adequately prepared for a performance (and rehearsal) by practicing outside of group rehearsal time.
- Every student is to bring his or her instrument, music, drill, pencil, and other necessary equipment to each and every rehearsal.
- Talking is appropriate before and after rehearsal. Talking during rehearsal time is not permitted unless the director is not on the podium or a student has been called upon for comment.
- Chewing gum, eating, drinking, studying, reading, or game playing is not permitted during rehearsal.
- Good posture is crucial to playing one's instrument in a satisfactory manner. Good posture improves tone quality and breath support. Therefore, while playing the student should not be slumping or crossing his or her legs.
- The chalkboard will have the agenda for the day's rehearsal. This is for the student's benefit. Please take advantage of this information by organizing your music to the rehearsal order before the rehearsal begins.
- Drum Majors have been chosen to lead the band. These student leaders have been put in charge of the ensemble and should be treated with respect. All music and marching commands given by the drum major(s) are to be followed as though given by the director himself.
- While in field and parade positions, students should remain attentive with his or her instrument, music, and drill chart. Wandering around is not permitted.
- Section leaders will be chosen from the band to help assist in field instruction and music preparation.
- Every student will receive schedules of performances the band will be attending throughout the year within the first few weeks of school. It is the student's and his or her parent or guardian's responsibility to keep these performance dates free from conflict.
- Meeting times and locations will be announced before the date of the performance. The student should report at these times and locations rain or shine. If there is a question about the performance location and/or time, feel free to call Mr. Schaller at 397-5551 x1110.
- Personal items, equipment, and uniforms should not be left in the front entrance of the school. All items must be placed either in the band room or hallway near the band room while attending performances (football games, parades, etc.)

## *SPECIAL REHEARSAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR BAND FRONT MEMBERS*

- All applicable regulations for mentioned above also include auxiliary members.

- Rehearsals and practices are designed to learn basic equipment skills, construct routines, and solve problems as an ensemble.
- Memorization of each routine is highly recommended.
- No flip-flops are to be worn at any rehearsal or practice.
- We cannot expect to perform together as a unit when key members are absent. If unable to attend practice, the auxiliary director must be called before the scheduled time.
- If a student is unable to attend a performance, the marching band director or auxiliary sponsor must be notified ahead of time.

**It is during a performance that the student is most visible to the public eye. Therefore, it is absolutely necessary that the student act in a behavior worthy of being a representative for Marion Center Area School District.**

## *UNIFORMS*

As a member of the marching band, each participant will be assigned a uniform and a uniform number. These uniforms are very expensive and are property of the school district. This garment is to be treated with the utmost care and respect.

- The student is responsible for all alterations (**DO NOT CUT MATERIALS IN ALTERATIONS**). However, the marching band will try to have people on staff to do the alterations for the organization.
- Uniforms are to be kept in their garment bags when not being worn on trips away from the school.
- Students must be fully dressed in school appropriate attire (**no tank tops** even if it is school appropriate) underneath their uniforms. T-shirts, gym shorts, sweat pants are recommended. Sweatshirts are permitted in colder weather as long as they fit underneath the uniform.
- No nail polish, earrings or jewelry. Piercings that cannot be removed must be covered by a flesh-colored bandaid.
- **No gum chewing.**
- Band members with long hair must tuck it up underneath his or her band hat so no hair drops below the uniform collar.
- Marching band shoes will be available for purchase at the beginning of the marching band season and are to be worn with black socks, each time the band performs in full uniform. They must be kept clean. Shoe storage is the responsibility of the student.
- Students are to keep uniform jackets on at all times. Students must keep uniforms zipped when away from the band's designated area in the stands.
- Only school colored (green, yellow, or white) t-shirts, sweatshirts, coats, hats, or gloves may be worn in conjunction with the uniform. In extreme conditions, this rule will be flexible to allow for warmer jackets.
- Uniform shako hats are to be kept in the appropriate storage receptacles when not in use.

- Students are responsible for returning their uniform in top condition except for reasonable wear at the end of the year. Items that are lost or damaged will be charged to the student for its replacement value.
- The band director has the sole discretion to decide whether a band member is dressed appropriately or not in or out of uniform.
- **Special Consideration for Band Front Uniforms**
  - All applicable regulations from above will be enforced.
  - Hair must be styled for each performance according to the band front supervisor's rules.
  - Only black or nude colored undergarments are to be worn under leotards.
  - Black tank tops or long sleeve turtlenecks may be worn under uniforms depending on the weather. Removal of the sequin tops are permitted only under the discretion of the band and/or auxiliary directors.
  - Sequined uniforms/gloves must be given special care. They are to be hung on hangers and placed in garment bags when not being worn.
  - Shoes/boots must be cleaned and polished before each performance.

#### **Changing In and Out of Uniform**

Any infraction of these rules will result in disciplinary action.

- Students are given a limited time to change in and out of uniform. Use this time quickly and efficiently.
- At NO time should ones' undergarments be shown while changing. A student must be fully dressed underneath his or her uniform at all times excluding the colorguard and majorettes.
- All Colorguard and majorettes must use the restrooms when changing.

### *STAND ETIQUETTE*

- Band students are required to sit in their sections and play their instruments during football games.
- Everyone must play while in the stands. It is not an option to sit out.
- No person who is not a part of the marching band, including friends or relatives, is allowed to sit with the band. The only exceptions to this are band alumni who are playing and have been cleared with the director.
- Band members are permitted to go to the restroom or concession stand after halftime at football games. All band members are required to be back in the stands at the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter (when the clock hits 0:00).
- Uniforms may be unzipped while in the stands however and hats will not be worn as long as the student is wearing school colors underneath their uniform jacket; however all other rules pertaining to the wear and use of the uniform (including gum) must be followed.

## *RULES ON DRIVING AND PARENTAL PICK-UP*

- Students will not be permitted to drive to band functions away from the Marion Center campus. Students will use school district transportation to and from the performances.
- Students who have driving permits are not permitted to drive after 11:00pm. Student drivers, after a late dismissal, may ask one of the directors to write a letter of explanation to carry in case of an emergency while driving.
- **Students who wish to leave at the end of a performance with a parent, guardian, or designated adult (with explicit written parental permission) may do so.** A written note signed by the parent or guardian must be given to the director prior to departure for the performance. This allows the chaperones to see ahead of time, which students will not be going home with the organization.
- Parents or guardians who are taking their child home after a performance must meet and sign out their child at the bus. Parents or guardians may be asked to present photo identification such as a driver's license to a chaperone in order to release a student.
- We are not allowed under any circumstance to leave a student anywhere to meet a person at a later time. They must be present at the time of pick-up.

## *DISMISSAL POLICY*

Upon returning from any performance (i.e. parades, home and away football games) each band member will be required to:

- unload the equipment
- put his or her uniform and/or raincoat away including garment bags and hats,
- put away all instruments and equipment

When these have been completed, members will meet as an ensemble to bring the evening to a close and to receive any further instruction or announcements.

**If a student is not returning to the school after a performance, it is his or her responsibility to have another band member take care of returning his or her instrument and uniform to the school.**

## MARCHING BAND AWARDS

- *Most Valuable Player* – Given to the most outstanding band member displaying outstanding musicianship and service within each grade level (7<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>). The recipient is voted on by peers within his or her grade level. Drum majors are ineligible for this award.
- *Most Valuable Auxiliary* – Given to the most outstanding silk or majorette band member who displays outstanding technique and service within the marching band. The recipient is voted on by peers within the auxiliary.
- *Most Valuable Senior* – Given to the most outstanding senior displaying outstanding musicianship and service within the ensemble. Recipient is voted on by the members of the ensemble. Drum majors are ineligible for this award.
- *Band Letter*- Students will earn a band letter at the completion of their 12<sup>th</sup> grade year.
- *Pin* - A student may be earned by completing a year of marching band in any grade from 7<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade.



\*\*\*\*\*RETURN TO THE DIRECTOR\*\*\*\*\*

## MARION CENTER MARCHING BAND HANDBOOK

I, \_\_\_\_\_, have read and understand the policies of the Marion Center Marching Band and have agreed to participate in all rehearsals and performances throughout the marching band season. It is understood that any infraction to the regulations outlined in the Marion Center Marching Band Handbook or the Marion Center Middle/High School Handbooks may result in disciplinary action set forth by the director and/or school district.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Student

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent or Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date