

Morgantown High School

Red and Blue

Marching Band



Handbook 2023-2024

Auxiliary Email: info@mohiganband.com

Band Website: <https://www.redbluemhsband.com>

Band Office: 304-291-9266

7:30am-3:00pm only; no voice mailbox

Welcome to the 2023-2024 Morgantown High School Red and Blue Marching Band!

FORWARD

The purpose of this handbook is to provide information about the Morgantown High School Band program. To achieve and maintain the high standards of excellence desired by the band, members should familiarize themselves with the regulations and procedures contained in this handbook. All band members and parents should read this booklet carefully in order to avoid any conflicts with band policies. If you have any questions, please email info@mohiganband.com or call the band office at 304-291-9266.

PHILOSOPHY OF THE BAND PROGRAM

The band program's philosophy is to work toward providing a well-rounded, balanced program of music education for all interested students who demonstrate the desire and proper attitude to be members of the band. Each student must be willing to share the responsibility of establishing and maintaining high standards of excellence. Further, each student must show respect for authority and cooperation with his/her fellow band members. Discipline is vital. The success of the band depends on both the students' and parents' willingness to accept the ideals, principles, and rules of the organization.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Morgantown High School Red & Blue Marching Band

PO Box 496

Morgantown, WV 26508

Band Auxiliary Email: info@mohiganband.com

Band Treasurer Email: treasurer@mohiganband.com

Band Website: redbluemhsband.com

Band Office: 304-291-9266

Band Director.....Mr. Lorne Hyskell (lorne.hyskell@k12.wv.us)

Assistant Band Director.....Mr. Brian Reed (brian.reed@k12.wv.us)

Band Auxiliary President.....Mrs. Jennifer Thompson

Band Auxiliary Vice President.....Mrs. Beth Roberts

Band Auxiliary Secretary.....Mrs. Angela Carver

Band Auxiliary Treasurers.....Mrs. Sarah Yokum

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A Proud Tradition of Excellence!

The Morgantown High School Red and Blue Marching Band has a time-honored tradition of excellence that has made its members proud to say that they were a part of this organization. The band has traveled extensively throughout the United States and represented our state in the following prestigious competitions and festivals:

- 1935 – Morgantown Kiwanis Band Contest, Morgantown, WV
- 1963 – Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade, New York City, NY
- 1970 – Cotton Bowl, Dallas, TX
- 1970 – Orange Bowl, Miami, FL
- 1976 – Oil and Gas Festival, Sistersville, WV
- 1977 – Edison Pageant of Light, Bradenton, FL
- 1980 – Festival of States, St. Petersburg, FL
- 1983 – Tournament of Champions, Charleston, WV
- 1986 – Great Southern Contest of Champions, Orlando, FL
- 1987 – Busch Gardens, Williamsburg, VA
- 1989 – All-American Music Festival, Orlando, FL
- 1989 – Grand Sweepstakes Winner
- 1990 – Dixie Classic, NAI, Washington, D.C.
- 1992 – All-American Music Festival, Orlando, FL
- 1994 – West Virginia Classic Field Show Competition, Charleston, WV
- 1994 – Bands of America, Eastern Regional Competition, Morgantown, WV
- 1995 – All-American Music Festival, Orlando, FL
- 1998 – Orlando Festival of Music, Orlando, FL
- 2001 – All-American Music Festival, Orlando, FL
- 2002 – The “Spirit of America Tour” to Charleston, WV and Ground Zero, NYC
- 2004 – Bands of America National Percussion Festival, Indianapolis, IN National Finalist
- 2005 – All American Music Festival, Orlando, FL
- 2007 – NY MTV Tour, New York City, NY
- 2009 – Festival Disney, Orlando, FL
- 2009 – Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade, New York City, NY
- 2013 – Tournament of Roses Parade, Pasadena, CA
- 2014 – National Cherry Blossom Festival, Washington DC
- 2016 – 75th Anniversary of Pearl Harbor Commemorative Parade, Waikiki, HI
- 2018 – Virginia Arts Festival Parade of Nations, Norfolk, VA
- 2019 -- Philadelphia Thanksgiving Day Parade, Philadelphia, PA
- 2022 -- Festival Disney, Orlando, FL



Mohigan Pride

The Morgantown High School Red and Blue Marching Band has earned a prestigious reputation as being one of the best high school band organizations across the United States. This honorable tradition is now in your hands, so please represent yourself, your section, and the band in the best possible light at all times – our character counts. Be kind, respectful, courteous, disciplined, focused, fully engaged, and a positive force in our band – *especially when no one is looking.*

The band and its leaders will be calling on you to be the best you can be at every practice or performance. Being a member of the Red and Blue Marching Band is an honor and a privilege that requires hard work, dedication, individual sacrifices, and 100% commitment to the goals of the band as a whole. We do not ask you to feel the pressure of having to *BE* the best, but we do ask that you *DO* your best.

As a member of the Red and Blue Marching Band you can develop:

- Friendship and camaraderie
- Social Interaction Skills
- Cooperation and Teamwork
- Physical Skills
- Self Esteem
- Leadership Skills
- Team Goal-Setting Skills
- Appreciation of Different Abilities
- Self-Discipline and Patience
- Respect for Bandmates/Directors
- Persistence
- Resilience through Sharing
- A sense of belonging to a group that strives for excellence
- Time-Management Skills
- Positive and Negative Experiences

You will have the opportunity/privilege to:

- Travel
- Gain personal responsibility by being
- Use of band equipment and facilities accountable for your own music
- Advance within your section instruments, charts, etc.
- Audition for Leadership positions
- Opportunity to compete (All-State, Solo & Ensemble, College Honor Band)
- Wear the MHS Band Uniform with Pride
- Build confidence in performing in public
- Practice individually and in a group
- Feel the pride of a job well done and setting and performing in public to refine knowing your hard work paid off
- Improve your musicality and instrument expertise

Being a member of this band will bring you lifelong friends and memories. It will also provide experiences and personal achievements that do not exist anywhere else. You will find the value of those personal strengths that come to people who have had the experience of committing themselves to a purpose and working hard to achieve those goals.

MORGANTOWN HIGH SCHOOL BAND PROGRAM

WIND ENSEMBLE *(Director Approval and Audition Required)*

A select, limited instrumentation ensemble for the serious musician. Usually sections will be set up on a "one-per-part" basis that is conducive toward developing the confidence and independence of individual players. The class is presented with the most difficult repertoire with an emphasis on exposing the students to a wide range of styles. This class performs 3 to 4 concerts per year and submits performances for national and statewide honors. Attire for all concerts is Formal Black and White. Tuxedos or Gowns can be purchased from Coni and Franc in Morgantown at the beginning of the school year.

REQUIREMENTS: Members must participate in the Marching Band and are also strongly encouraged to audition for All-State Band and/or perform a solo at the Regional Solo and Ensemble Festival. Members must have mastered all major scales up to five flats and five sharps, played in eighth notes at m.m.120, play a chromatic scale (playable range of the instrument), and tonic arpeggio, sight-read music in the above keys with 6/8, cut time, 2/4, 3/4, etc., and perform a solo or etude to display technical skill.

Please Note: Limited openings are available in Wind Ensemble.

SYMPHONIC BAND *(Director Approval and Audition Required)*

A select instrumentation with expanded sections and less emphasis on solo opportunities. The emphasis is on creating a well-rounded musical experience while achieving a balanced instrumentation. Music Literature is adjusted to the instrumentation and the ability levels of members. This group will perform 2 to 3 concerts per year.

REQUIREMENTS: Members must participate in the Marching Band and are encouraged to audition for honor groups - All State Band and Regional Solo and Ensemble Festival. Members must have mastered all major scales up to four flats and four sharps, played in eighth notes at m.m.120, play chromatic scale (playable range), and tonic arpeggio, sight-read music in above keys with 6/8, 3/4, etc., and perform a solo or etude to display technical skill.

CONCERT BAND *(Director Approval Required)*

An open instrumentation that has emphasis on improving the musicianship of the ensemble and individual performer. Music selected concentrates on the technical aspect of performance and the abilities of its members. This group will perform 1 to 2 concerts per year.

REQUIREMENTS: Members must participate in the Marching Band. Members must have mastered all major scales up to three flats and three sharps, played in quarter notes at m.m.120, play a two-octave chromatic scale and tonic arpeggio, sight-read music in above keys with 4/4, 6/8, and cut time.

FRESHMAN BAND *(Director Approval Required)*

An open instrumentation that has emphasis on improving the musicianship of the ensemble and individual performer. This band is only for Freshmen new to MHS. Music selected concentrates on the technical aspect of performance and the abilities of its members. This group will perform 1 to 2 concerts per year.

REQUIREMENTS: Members must participate in the Marching Band as an instrumentalist. Members must have mastered all major scales up to three flats and three sharps, played in quarter notes at m.m.120, play a two-octave chromatic scale and tonic arpeggio, sight-read music in above keys with 4/4, 6/8, and cut time.

JAZZ BAND *(Director Approval Required)*

An introduction to Jazz for students interested in learning the genre. Usually, sections will be set to one or two students on a part. Students are introduced to Jazz, Rock, and Funk charts, fundamental improvisation techniques, and may be adjudicated in the Spring semester. This class performs 2 to 3 times per year and plays for numerous functions throughout the school year.

Requirements: Members must play an instrument; percussionists will play parts on mallet or auxiliary percussion when not on drumset.

ADVANCED JAZZ ENSEMBLE *(Director Approval and Audition Required)*

Meant to introduce students to the way Jazz Musicians operate in a post-school setting, this ensemble has a specific, limited instrumentation for serious musicians. Usually, sections will be set on a "one-per-part" basis that is conducive toward developing the confidence and independence of individual players. Students will learn intermediate to advanced improvisation techniques, perform more challenging music, how to read and interpret leadsheets, and will work towards memorizing several Jazz Standards and be able to perform them on command. This class performs 2 to 3 times per year and plays for numerous functions throughout the school year.

Requirements: All members must re-audition each year. Audition material is determined by the Director.

Please Note: Limited openings are available in the Advanced Jazz Ensemble

PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE *(Director Approval and Audition Required)*

This class consists of percussionists that have successfully auditioned and participate in the Marching Band Percussion Section (drumline). Members will learn ensemble techniques, percussion instrument techniques and technical skills on all percussion (i.e. mallets, timpani and accessories.) Students will also need to perform scales two sharps to two flats over two to three octaves. The Ensemble will perform at 1 to 2

performances per year, along with other special programs. Members must participate in the Marching Band.

HOW TO PRACTICE MUSIC

1. Pick the section/spot you struggle with the most.
2. Begin by looking at the key and time signatures, style, articulation, and dynamic markings.
3. Count any rhythmic figures.
4. Shadow play and SING!!!
5. Now play it starting at half tempo, with a metronome, and gradually work up to the actual tempo.
6. Try to keep at a tempo where you have few mistakes.

REMEMBER - IT IS THE *QUALITY* OF TIME NOT THE *QUANTITY* THAT MAKES THE DIFFERENCE! **Strive to be the best that you can be!**

CHALLENGE PROCEDURES:

- Students wanting to challenge will seek out Mr. Hyskell or Mr. Reed to obtain a challenge form at the beginning of a class period. During the same period, they will fill it out with their chosen excerpt, then give it to the chairholder to fill out. The chairholder must return the challenge sheet by the beginning of the next class meeting
- The challenger must prepare at least 24 measures of music and present this music to the chairholder at least one class prior to the challenge. In turn, the chairholder is obligated to prepare at least 24 different measures of music and present their selection to the challenger at least one class prior to the scheduled challenge.
- The challenger must challenge on the same part (i.e. Instrument 2) of the chair they are trying to obtain, even if it is not the part they currently play.
- In order to win the challenge, the challenger must be the superior player of both pieces of music.
- You may only challenge **1 (one)** chair at a time.
- You must accept the challenge if you are challenged.

All solos for Marching Band are selected at the discretion of the Band Director.

Red & Blue Band Leadership / Responsibilities

Head Majorette: A senior participant that has participated on the line their junior year, selected by independent judges through a separate audition. The head majorette is responsible for the M&Ms and is the student leader at performances.

Field Commander: A senior student selected based on their ability to direct field performances and leadership qualities through a separate audition by independent judges.

Section Leader: A student selected by the band directors based on their qualities of dependability, musicianship, respect of students and general leadership potential.

Rank Leader: A student responsible for their rank of no more than 9 students during parade block. They will ensure their rank stays in line vertically and horizontally. They will also assist Section Leaders as requested.

Librarians: Students selected to keep the Music Library in order.

Logistics: Students selected to supervise loading, unloading, and storage of equipment.

The Band Student Body elects the following positions in May of each year:

President (1): This position is responsible for organizing the senior students for camp Vespers and the band banquet. Other duties are to assist the Band Director in tasks throughout the year such as helping with picture day, homecoming parade, concert preparation, public speaking, loading, and unloading.

Co-President (1): This position is responsible to assist the President in his / her duties listed above as well as prepare the work list for the spaghetti dinner fundraiser, help with band guides for the Band Spectacular and / or other director projects.

Recording Secretary (1): This position is responsible for keeping written notes during senior meetings, assisting with all band concert programs, coordinating and receiving the bus list, coordinating and receiving the percussion equipment list. This role will also be responsible for sending thank you notes for all band events such as sponsors to the Band Spectacular, Band Auxiliary Committee Chairs, band event chairs and any volunteer assisting with a band event. They will assist the President and Co-President on projects assigned by the band directors.

Treasurer (1): This position is responsible for recording all monies received and spent for senior class functions and turning over all monies to the Band Auxiliary Treasurer. In addition, this position will also assist any of the positions listed above on projects assigned by the band directors.

Historian (3): This position will keep a yearly history of the band by creating a senior slideshow and a scrapbook housed in the band room. In addition, this position will also assist any of the positions listed above on projects assigned by the band directors.

(2) Junior Representatives, (2) Sophomore Representatives, and (2) Freshman Representatives: These positions are responsible for organizing their respective classes for vespers and other activities.

RULES and REGULATIONS

ATTENDANCE AT ALL REHEARSALS AND PERFORMANCES IS REQUIRED

Our "TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE" depends on the self-discipline and commitment of each individual band member fulfilling his/her rehearsal and performance responsibilities.

In instances of legitimate and essential conflicts (see band and athletics section), the band office must be notified **IN WRITING** and by a parent **3 DAYS IN ADVANCE**, so that your situation may be fully considered. All conflicts must be approved by the band directors and instructors involved. Please note that attending concerts are NOT excused absences.

Note: According to School Policy, "You must be present the second half of the day in order to participate in after school activities." In other words, if you are too sick to be in school, you are too sick to attend after school activities (practices, performances, or meetings).

- Possible ways to make up an absence at a practice or performance:

NONE; There is no way!

On the Band Auxiliary website, <https://www.redbluemhsband.com>, there is a calendar of events for the 2023-2024 school year to help avoid potential conflicts. Additional performances and rehearsals will be added to the schedule and will be announced as soon as the dates are confirmed. It should be noted that all listed events do not involve all band students.

Students are not required to be at each event listed if they do not perform in the ensemble listed. However, attendance at all rehearsals and performances in which you are required to perform are mandatory. Members should arrive promptly at the given time and place prepared to begin the rehearsal or performance. **On time means at least 15 minutes early!** Rehearsals, performances, and departure times are just that.

PARENT'S NOTE: If a student must miss a scheduled rehearsal or performance, it is the student's responsibility to provide the director written notice at least three days in advance. The director reserves the right to dispute the request of a member to be absent, to ensure the policy is not abused. (Please note: Excuses must be more specific than claiming student will be "out of town.") Emergencies will be dealt with individually for the protection of the member's eligibility. Communication with the director is essential. Failure to adhere to this policy will result in the following:

TARDINESS TO REHEARSAL OR PERFORMANCE: Loss of some or all participation points for that rehearsal or performance, and possible loss of performing privileges.

MISSED REHEARSAL: (Excused or unexcused absence) Loss of participation points for that rehearsal, possible loss of performing privileges.

MISSED PERFORMANCE: (Unexcused absence) Loss of participation points for that performance, possible suspension from a subsequent performance, and possible loss of membership.

If a student comes to a rehearsal or performance without the proper equipment, uniform, or materials, the individual will receive an "unexcused absence" for that event and the above stated consequences may be applied.

PROMPTNESS This means BE EARLY! At least (15 min.) for every rehearsal. Tardiness may result in a grade cut for that activity. Put your instrument together and begin warming up.

AWAY PERFORMANCE RULES AND REGULATIONS (games, parades, band spectaculars, etc.)

- Students must arrive in TRAVEL UNIFORM unless instructed to do otherwise.
- You are responsible for LOADING and UNLOADING your own equipment and helping to load and unload other equipment as needed.
- The bus drivers are in charge of what they will and will not allow on his/her bus, so respect their wishes.
- Keep the bus neat and clean.
- We will straighten up the bus and help take all equipment to the band room before we will be dismissed.
- Use your best judgment. Be courteous to the chaperones, each other, and the people in other communities.
- We will always thank the driver upon exiting the bus both at the venue and upon returning to MHS.

Procedure for students NOT returning home with the band from away performances

- Parents must turn in a completed student sign out form at least 7 days prior to departure. Access this from the Band Website.
- Parents must go to the band's loading area and physically get their son/daughter, take them to the head chaperone or the chaperone on their bus and **SIGN OUT** on the official bus list. **Students are NOT permitted to leave without signing out on the clipboard.**
- Students will only be released to **their** parents. Please do not ask for them to ride with boyfriends or girlfriends or other adults, because we don't know them and we are still responsible for your son/daughter. If for some reason you need to have the student ride with another parent, the band director(s) need a written note from all parties involved. The parent needs to **SIGN OUT** the band student with the chaperone prior to departing with the student.

Although these policies may be inconvenient, we have them in place for the safety of the students. This is always our number one priority.

BAND ROOM

The band room must remain as secure as possible. Please refrain from bringing visitors into the band room without notifying directors for their approval beforehand.

ALTHOUGH WE TRY TO MAKE THE BAND ROOM SECURE, WE DO NOT ADVISE ANYONE TO LEAVE PERSONAL PROPERTY OR INSTRUMENTS OVERNIGHT OR DURING REHEARSALS. PLEASE DO NOT USE THIS ROOM AS AN ALTERNATE LOCKER OR TRASH CAN.

Students are not permitted in the Band Room area unless a Faculty/Staff member or parent is present.

Students are not permitted to wander the school. While we can utilize hallways to assemble instruments, we may not enter other classrooms. Be respectful of peoples' space.

BAND OFFICE

You are welcome to come to the Band Office with your questions and concerns. Please remember the band directors have additional work to do and the office is not the proper place for socializing. Please get their permission BEFORE entering.

West Virginia Secondary Schools Activities Commission Participation Rules

West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission is the governing body, which controls the activities of Athletics and Bands in the State of West Virginia. This body has determined that High School Band is a Co-Curricular activity and not just an Extra-Curricular activity. This means that Band Classes and after school activities including rehearsals and performances (games, parades, concerts, etc.) are intrinsically related and are in effect one-in-in-the-same.

These rules in particular, regard the eligibility of individual students to participate in activities outside the school day:

- All members of a school band must be enrolled in that school.
- Majorettes, Flag Corps, Drill Teams, etc. are considered an integral part of the band and shall be adjudicated and governed accordingly.
- Participants in secondary school interscholastic band activities shall be eligible only for the number of years in which they are enrolled and attending a secondary school as an undergraduate.
- A student is required to do passing work in the equivalent of at least 20 periods (four subjects with full credit toward graduation) per week. Failure to earn passing marks in four full credit subjects during a semester shall render a student ineligible for the following semester.
 - a. Two of those four full credit subjects must be in English-Language Arts, Social Studies, Math or Science, and may or may not be in the same area.
 - b. If a student has completed all state, county and school requirements, he/she may select four full credits from any area of the curriculum offered by the school.
 - c. If a student is taking a multiple period subject, such as vocational courses for a full morning or afternoon, it may be counted as more than one subject. The number of subjects counted will be equal to the units of full credits given; however, part (a) above must also be met. Note: This translates to a 2.0 grade point average, 2.285 GPA for M&Ms, 2.5 GPA for Head Majorette/Field Commander.

OVERNIGHT TRIP RULES AND REGULATIONS

At no time will anyone deviate from the schedule. Be punctual for all attendance checks. All hotel room doors are to be locked and chained. Do not open the door for anyone who has not identified themselves. Do not go outside in night attire. No band member is permitted outside his or her room after lights out.

Treat all chaperones with respect and address them as Mr., Mrs., or Ms.

Look presentable. Do not wear clothes that are dirty or torn. Do not wear clothing that depicts alcohol, tobacco, drugs, or violence. Attention to **PERSONAL HYGIENE IS NOT OPTIONAL**. Please do not make the Director have to speak to you privately.

Use or possession of alcohol, tobacco, drugs, any type of controlled substance, or weapon is not permitted. Any student violating this rule will be sent home at the parent's expense. Further disciplinary actions will be taken upon arrival back in Morgantown.

Do not conduct yourself in a manner that could endanger the band's privilege of taking trips.
THINK BEFORE YOU ACT!

The conduct of the band members is more important than the band's musical performance. Everyone should always use courtesy and common sense. We have represented ourselves very well in the past and have always been welcomed back for return visits. When we return home, let us be proud of our musical performance as well as our personal performance. It is everyone's duty to live up to the tradition of excellence that has been carefully forged by the Morgantown High School Band.

DISCIPLINE/BEHAVIOR

The following activities will **NOT** be tolerated in MHS Band rehearsals, trips, or performances.

DESTRUCTION OF SCHOOL OR PERSONAL PROPERTY

This will also be interpreted to mean possession of property which is not your own. Wasteful abuse of our valuable resources costs us many thousands of dollars. A particular problem area seems to be in the Percussion Department concerning percussion equipment. Do your part to ensure that we do not allow anyone to give the band a bad reputation by not taking care of our equipment. Let's police ourselves so we do not ever have to resort to outside enforcement.

ACTIVITIES WHICH INTERFERE WITH A SMOOTH, EFFICIENT, QUICK PACED REHEARSAL

This includes, but is not limited to, unexcused absences, tardiness, talking, in-attentiveness, cell phone use, or any distracting activity. The MHS Band uses a very minimal rehearsal schedule compared to most other high school bands and athletics. The only way we can maintain an even pace and keep our standards is to maintain a very EFFICIENT rehearsal atmosphere.

CONDUCT WHICH DETRACTS FROM OUR SURROUNDINGS AND MAKES US LESS PROUD OF THE CONDITIONS OF OUR SURROUNDINGS If you sit in an area, be sure to pick up your trash and leave the surroundings in the condition you found them. We only want to leave a good impression.

ACTIVITY WHICH IS NOT CONDUCTIVE TOWARD PROMOTING THE FINE TRADITION OF THE MHS BAND.

Plainly put, we will do our part to always fulfill the commitment we have made: to always act and behave the way an excellent band full of PRIDE and CONFIDENCE would act.

CONSISTENT AND PERSISTENT INFRACTIONS WILL RESULT IN MORE RIGID PENALTIES. IF YOU DO NOT KNOW WHETHER IT IS WRONG, ASK!!! INFRACTIONS WILL RESULT IN THE SUSPENSION OF PRIVILEGES AND/OR ALL BAND ACTIVITIES.

PLEASE: PRACTICE FAITHFULLY AND FULFILL YOUR PERFORMING RESPONSIBILITIES

The essence of what we do is to perform to the very best of our abilities. If you have done everything you can do to learn your part, you can be confident that you are an important part of what we do. No member is truly a party of the band unless he does his part.

BAND AND ATHLETICS

Morgantown High School believes in giving students multiple opportunities whenever possible. All Co-curricular activities, including band, involve a level of commitment and band is no exception. Students that choose to be active in both band and athletics must keep in constant communication among all coaches, band directors, and parents involved. Students may need to leave practice and go straight to a rehearsal, or vice versa in order to accommodate both activities. It is important to keep in mind that both activities are team efforts and absences affect other students and the overall performance of a group.

Fall athletic activities (football, soccer, volleyball, cheerleading) are the most difficult to coordinate with the band because of limited practice time and frequency of games and performances. These students will attend band classes and perform with the band at all parades when there is not a direct scheduled game conflict. However, these students do need to spend an appropriate amount of time rehearsing with the band to be able to perform. In general, an athletic game is more important than a band rehearsal and a band performance is more important than an athletic practice or other responsibilities (such as jobs). *All athletes must keep in constant communication with Mr. Hyskell and he must approve the absence in advance.*

Winter athletic activities are not as big a problem following football season, because there are limited band activities (two or three parades). Spring athletic activities are not normally a problem unless the band is traveling on a major trip where all the bands are competing.

Throughout the year, the band sponsors events and concerts in which all or sections of the band students are involved. These performances are culminations of class work done over a period of time. Remember, missing a concert is equivalent to missing a game.

Will it be difficult to coordinate band and sports? – Yes Is it

doable? – Yes, but.....



SUMMER BAND

(July 10, 2023)

ALL STUDENTS NEED A WORKING, FUNCTIONAL, TUNABLE INSTRUMENT WITH A MARCHING BAND FLIP FOLDER AND LYRE FOR THEIR INSTRUMENT TO BE SUCCESSFUL.

We usually start with a Leadership and Freshman day the week before Summer Band begins. Then, we do two weeks of “Day Camp” followed by a week of “Away Camp”.

Attendance is taken during summer band, which includes the full band, sectionals, and individuals.

WEATHER

There is a chance that most of what we do will be done in weather conditions that are less than perfect. The best advice we can give is to BE PREPARED! If weather conditions are severe, monitor the band website, emails, facebook, and watch for Remind App updates.

Also, if it looks like it is going to rain/storm, please make sure that band practice is still on before dropping your child off at practice. The band director may not call practice until the time practice is supposed to start.

Our uniforms are somewhat warm in the early part of the season. We encourage you to prepare yourself for performances by eating three times a day and by drinking plenty of liquids (water).

MOHIGAN BAND HOME FOOTBALL GAME PROCEDURES (in

order):

1. Arrive at the band room (in uniform) at the designated time, usually 5:45 pm.
2. Retrieve your instrument and report to the announced location.
3. Upon arrival, assemble in sections for warm up and tuning.
4. Band will play in concert formation.
5. Line up in parade formation.
6. March into the stadium.
7. Assemble in sections in the band bleachers and get ready for the pre-game (National Anthem and Pep Song).
8. Band will play as a group during the first quarter and a half. Water is distributed to students.
9. During the second half of the second quarter, Section Leaders again check tuning before students assemble behind the bleachers in the off field preset.
10. Band moves preset onto field to perform halftime show. (Band will stand at attention in the backfield if a visiting band is performing before us or watch from the end zone if performing after.)
11. Return to bleachers.
12. Students are released ½ at a time to concessions and restrooms but need to return before the end of the 3rd Quarter.
13. Band plays between 1st and 2nd quarters and during 4th quarter.

14. At the end of the game, the band will play Pep Song. We might also perform a post-game stand up concert from the bleachers or field.
15. Band is dismissed to put away instruments.
 - a. 1 section will clean bleachers
 - b. 1 section will clean band room

STAND PROCEDURES

- Please do not play individually in the stands.
- Remain seated in the stands until excused by the director.
- The band is a group; all sections must sit together. Friends/spectators may not sit with the band.
- Be supportive of the team, cheer, and others around you. You are representing the entire band.
- **You must be seated and ready to play by the end of the third quarter.** • When the band plays, **EVERYONE** plays. Be alert for the announcement of the next tune and **READY TO PLAY.**
- Move quickly and quietly to and from warm up areas.

BAND AUXILIARY

The Morgantown High School Band Auxiliary *includes every band parent/guardian* and is the life-blood of the MHS Band. It exists to support the band directors of Morgantown High School in achieving excellence for all facets of the band program. Funds provided by the Monongalia County School Board are limited and are not adequate to support the full program and related costs. Auxiliary meetings are generally held monthly on a Tuesday evening.

More often than not, income generated through the collection of fees are insufficient to meet financial obligations and must be supplemented by net income received through student fundraising activities. The number and frequency of fundraising events are determined by cash flow requirements and uncollected fees. Generally, funds to support the program will come from two sources: student band fees and fundraising income. Gifts and funds from other sources, including corporate sponsors, are also encouraged.

The band could not function without the Auxiliary's support. However, the work *should not be left up to the faithful few.* **There is something for everyone to do both large and small!** The following list contains normal areas of support opportunities for parents. Other opportunities will arise throughout the year.

Band Banquet (May) Spaghetti Dinners (Oct & Mar) Band Spectacular (Patron Program)
June-Aug Stadium Seat Sales (WVU Home Games) Band Spectacular (September)
Summer Band Chaperones (All Trips) - Daily Rehearsal Concessions (Football Season) -
Band Camp (July) Merchandise (All year, concentrated in Fall) Uniforms (Early Summer)
Pizza Kits (Fall)

In addition, the auxiliary has opportunities as President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary with duties that include Webmaster/Communications, among many others.

The kids really like seeing YOU around helping (*as long as they can come to you and you don't go to them!*). Thank you for doing your share to support the Red and Blue Marching Band – it is appreciated!!!

Your child's participation in the MHS Band Program should be about learning to enjoy and play music in an environment that is best suited for success . . . not about how to pay for it! Our goal is to make sure parents know the financial commitment that is required to participate in the band programs so they have an understanding and a plan for managing the fees and costs associated with a successful program.

FORMS

Each member must have the following **FOUR** forms filled out and signed:

1. WVSSAC Medical/Physical Exam: _____
2. MCS Student Activity/Field Trip Form: _____
3. MHS Band Medical History Form: _____
4. Extended Day/Overnight Trip Form: _____

Each member must have the following filled out on the Google Form titled "MHS Band Form Pack":

1. Handbook Form: _____
2. Member Agreement: _____
3. Parent/Student Contract: _____
4. Website Consent: _____

The Permission Forms, a Student Parent Contract, a Medical History and a Physical Form must be on file in the Band Office before you can actually participate in Summer Band activities. The Health Form, which is also used by the Athletic Department, requires a physical exam to be performed after the end of the school year in June and to be turned in before the student may participate in July. This form will be filed in the Band Office and is good for the entire school year. A band member who participates on an athletic team is able to copy this Health Form and use it to meet that team's requirements.

BAND FEES AND DUE DATES

The fees for this school year are listed in the table below. ***A DEPOSIT OF \$100 IS DUE BY MAY 31st!*** The fees may be paid in two installments with the 1st installment (at least \$100) due March 31st and the 2nd due June 30th. **Unpaid fees as of June 30th are subject to a \$30 LATE FEE.**

When all fees have been paid and all nine forms turned in, students will be issued a FastPass,

usually on picture day during Summer Band, for Express Check in at Band Camp. This is discussed in more detail on Page 23 of this handbook. *Students with outstanding fees and paperwork as of the end of the last practice prior to band camp will NOT receive a FastPass for camp.* (Note: A FastPass will not be given for fees and paperwork turned in on picture day.)

BAND FEES 2023-2024 AMOUNT DUE DATE

Band Camp \$420.00

Uniform \$50.00

TOTAL \$470.00

Instrument Rental (Includes M&Ms & Percussion) \$25.00

TOTAL WITH RENTAL \$495.00

The number of students who are current in their payments by May 31st will determine the number of spots written for the upcoming marching season field show.

ACCEPTED FORMS OF PAYMENT

Fees can be paid by check, cash or money order. **Please make checks out to Morgantown High School Band.** Payments may be mailed to PO Box 496, Morgantown, WV 26507, or your student may place it in the designated box or folder in the band office. ***Please include your student's name and the fee(s) you are paying on the check!***

RETURNED CHECK CHARGES

A \$35 NSF (non-sufficient funds) charge will be assessed on all returned checks.

REFUNDS

Because plans are made well in advance of payments, it may be difficult to make last minute refunds for cancellations. Refunds for any band activity will be made on a case-by-case basis. Requests must be made in writing to the Auxiliary Treasurer or President.

All students are expected to pay fees in full by June 30th. Payment arrangements outside of this should be made with the Auxiliary Treasurer or President. ***Being in band is a choice and by joining you are saying you will participate in fundraising and pay all fees.***

OTHER COSTS

It may be necessary for participants in the band program to bear an individual expense for enrichment activities in addition to those necessary to fund the band budget. Costs will include, but are not limited to, band shoes, gloves, section shirts, concert attire, audition fees, and expenses associated with trips.

The non-refundable uniform rental fee is for the purpose of repair, maintenance and upkeep of the uniforms. However, uniforms are to be returned at the end of each marching season, dry-cleaned and in the cleaner's bag. Students are responsible for the

replacement of damaged uniform parts due to negligence and improper care. Appropriate fees will be assessed for damages.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT/ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

It is the goal of the Morgantown High School band staff and auxiliary to provide opportunities for all students to be successful. If financial concerns would potentially keep a student from participating in band, the auxiliary is prepared to assist that student in his or her desire to stay in our program. ***However, all students and family members must be aware that receiving any financial assistance comes with the responsibility of showing appreciation through student effort and family support of the MHS Band.***

Any MHS band member or family may submit a financial assistance application for band fees or trip expenses. This form can be accessed on the band website and emailed confidentially to the Auxiliary Treasurer, or printed out and mailed to the Treasurer at PO Box 496, Morgantown, WV 26507.

FUNDRAISING

Fundraising is vital to the success of the band. Additional funds above and beyond fees are required to meet the organization's financial obligations. It is the primary means for the band to buy, maintain and repair instruments, to travel, purchase music, uniforms, etc. Annual fundraising events include, but are not limited to, stadium seats, band spectacular, football concessions, spaghetti dinners, and pizza sales. Additional fundraising events will be offered as needed. We are very fortunate in that we have a very active and dedicated Band Auxiliary. This enables us to focus on keeping our traditions alive.

All parents and students are expected to participate in order to minimize the burden on each participant and to keep membership dues at a minimum. Amounts raised through the fundraisers will be used to fund the general budget to the benefit of all program participants. Some fundraisers, however, will give the students the opportunity to have money raised put into their student accounts. More information about each fundraiser will be provided in advance of the event. *We need all parents to volunteer and all students to do their part* by selling as needed and turning in information on time. Just like all other band commitments – we need your 100% dedication.

FUND IMPLEMENTATION

Band fees and funds raised through fundraising are used in many different ways. Some fund direct instruction of band students. This includes instructors to assist with musicianship, performance skills and leadership. In addition to instructors, monies are also used to offset costs associated with uniforms, music, instruments/repairs, and performing at home and the surrounding area. ***All officers and committee members of the MHS Band Auxiliary are VOLUNTEERS and are not compensated/rewarded for their service.***

UNIFORM

- It is important to always keep your uniform properly on a hanger when not in use.
- The uniform is DRY CLEAN ONLY. Remove all loose or separate parts before dry cleaning. Please ask the dry cleaner to use clean fluid and a moderate extraction speed. • Only your gloves and socks are to be washed at home.
- Please “air out” your uniform after each performance.
- Storing your uniform in damp conditions or drying with heat can cause damage.
- Mark all the parts of your uniform with your name on a piece of masking tape attached near the ID number.
- Memorize your numbers and keep a good record of them.
- Check to make sure you have your complete uniform stored neatly and with you at all times. (Someone who forgets their hat may decide to use yours.)

WE HAVE HAD PROBLEMS LOSING SMALL BUTTONS, PLUMES, ETC. PLEASE KEEP TRACK OF THESE AND CHECK YOUR UNIFORM AFTER GAMES AND AFTER BEING CLEANED.

All parts of the uniform are to be clean and neat at all times. White marching shoes (Dinkles) are to be freshly polished for every performance. Tennis shoes are not permitted. Socks should be all white "crew style" ONLY.

PEOPLE WHO ARE ABUSING THEIR UNIFORMS OR BAND EQUIPMENT WILL BE ASKED TO PLACE A DEPOSIT IN AN AMOUNT OF UP TO THE COST OF REPLACING THE ITEM (OR THEY WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO USE SAID ITEM). REPLACEMENT COST OF A SINGLE UNIFORM IS CURRENTLY \$850.00. THE UNIFORM MUST BE RETURNED COMPLETE AND ON TIME.

UNIFORM NUMBERS: (Please record the numbers here so you have a record at home.)

JACKET: _____
PANTS: _____
HAT, PLUME: _____
HAT BOX: _____
GARMENT BAG: _____

BAND SHIRT (current year)
Gloves
Dinkles
White Crew Socks (over calf)
White Ball Cap

The travel uniform is what we wear on the bus trips so that it will not take so long to get ready once we have arrived at our destination. It consists of:

- Current Year Band T-shirt
- Band pants (hemmed and adjusted)
- White crew socks
- Polished white marching shoes (dinkles)

The entire uniform, with the exception of the hat and hat box, should be in the uniform bag.

MARCHING FUNDAMENTALS

- **At Ease:** Stay in place but relax. Keep talking to a minimum. Watch for commands to resume rehearsal or performance. BE ALERT!
- **Attention:** Heads up, eyes forward, stand up straight, no motion, feet together (do not lock knees). LOOK PROUD!
- **Cover Down:** Position is exactly in line with your file and diagonal.
- **Dress:** To become exactly in line with your own rank.
- **Follow the Leader:** Following the given leader in a precise path.
- **Glide Step:** The official marching step of the Morgantown High School Red and Blue Marching Band. It facilitates minimum movement of the upper body and embouchure. You should feel as if your upper body is floating because the shock of each step is absorbed in the ankles, knees, and hips.
- **High Step:** A step utilizing a high knee lift in which the toes point down, the upper thigh is parallel to the ground and an effort is made to smooth out the effects on the embouchure. (8 steps to 5 yards or shorter)
- **Horn Movement:** An adjustment of the horn angle to emphasize a musical effect.
- **Mark Time:** A system of keeping time with the feet while standing still that must be in perfect unison in style, foot height, and timing.
- **Parade Rest:** Feet should be shoulder width apart, head down, no motion, instrument should be in proper position. Look uniform.
- **Spacing:** Should be even throughout the entire band. Use peripheral vision to check spacing; never turn your head.
- **8 to 5:** Eight evenly spaced marching steps between yard lines (5 yards); line should pass through the ball of the foot.
- **6 to 5:** Six evenly spaced marching steps between yard lines (5 yards); line should pass through the ball of your foot. This is always a glide step.



BAND CAMP



Every year we receive many questions concerning band camp. We hope this information will answer most of them for you.

Date: July 24-29, 2023

You must have your paperwork (all) turned in before camp – no exceptions.

Registration Time: 7:30 – 8:00 am / Assembly Hall

Cabin meetings begin at 8:00 am.

Sectionals will begin at 9:00 am.

Location: Jackson’s Mill

Cost: \$470.00 (See payment schedule)

The cost of camp includes all meals beginning with lunch on July 23, 2018, boarding, instructors, etc. Jackson’s Mill provides a bed, two sheets, and a blanket.

We have a great staff at camp, experienced volunteers, instructors, a nurse and other medical staff. The band does carry accident insurance policy at camp.

EXPRESS CHECK-IN will allow those students issued a FastPass to go straight to your assigned cabin without checking in at the Assembly Hall. Express check-in is available for those band members who have turned in all nine of the required forms and paid all fees by the designated time. The designated time is usually the end of the last practice before picture day.

SAMPLE DAILY CAMP SCHEDULE

<u>Time</u>	<u>Description</u>
<u>08:00 – 08:45 am</u>	<u>Raise Flag and have Breakfast</u>
<u>09:00 – 09:45 am</u>	<u>Sectional Practice/Field</u>
<u>10:00 – 11:45 am</u>	<u>Field Work</u>
<u>12:00 – 12:45 pm</u>	<u>Lunch</u>
<u>01:00 – 01:45 pm</u>	<u>Sectional Practice/Field</u>
<u>02:00 – 04:00 pm</u>	<u>Field Work</u>
<u>04:15 – 05:00 pm</u>	<u>Vespers Practice</u>
<u>05:30 – 06:15 pm</u>	<u>Lower Flag and have Dinner</u>
<u>06:30 – 07:00 pm</u>	<u>Vespers</u>
<u>07:00 – Dark</u>	<u>Field Work</u>
	<u>Evening Activity</u>

CAMP RULES AND REGULATIONS

All school rules and Band Code of Conduct Apply

- The rehearsal schedule will be posted/announced daily. It is important to adhere to the daily schedule in order to accomplish as much as possible during camp.
- No student is to drive themselves or other band students to band camp. Please contact Mr. Reed if there are transportation issues as this non-negotiable.
- After lights-out, no one is to leave their cabin without one of the counselors accompanying them.
- NO alcoholic beverages, tobacco, stimulants, and/or drugs of any type are permitted to be brought or consumed at camp or any other school activity. Any violation and the student will be sent home immediately and suspended from band activities. All school rules apply even during the summer. Violations will be reported to school authorities as it occurred during the regular hours on campus.
- Please address your Director/Counselor/Instructor/Chaperone as Mr., Mrs., or Ms. to show your respect for them and their volunteerism during this incredible week at band camp.
- Attendance at ALL meals by ALL Students is mandatory, as nourishment and hydration are necessities during this strenuous week. You will need an excuse from the nurse or Band Director to skip a meal. If you are too sick to participate with the band, notify the director and the nurse.
- If you take prescription or over-the-counter medication, you are to give it to the nurse upon check-in at camp. They will ensure that you receive your medication as prescribed/needed.
- “EXERCISE COMMON SENSE” is the most important rule to follow at Band Camp. If this rule is applied, we are positive that every band member will have an excellent week at the 2017 Morgantown High School Red and Blue Marching Band Camp.

Band Camp is hard work and the kids will be tired and hot. Do not be surprised to get texts or calls that they are homesick and/or want to come home. Be supportive and encourage them to persevere, as they will truly have a great experience. *Please contact Mr. Reed at (304) 288-0411 or Jackson's Mill Main Office (304) 269-5100 if there are serious issues and before thinking about coming to get them.*

Days start out early and practice starts right after breakfast, water breaks are followed by practice. Practice follows Lunch. Break and dinner are followed by (you guessed it) practice. There is free time and fun evening activities planned for example: talent shows, costume night, section Olympics, movie night to name a few. Parents are there to provide snacks, encouragement and supervision. The names and numbers of the chaperones will be provided to you before camp starts so you have direct access to an adult while your child is away at camp.

*The band is not responsible for lost or stolen personal items.

WHAT TO PACK FOR BAND CAMP!!

- Instrument
- Music
- Reeds
- Flip-Folders
- Water Bottle
- Towels/Wash cloths
- Soap/Shampoo/Brush/Comb
- Tooth Paste/Tooth Brush
 - Deodorant and Other Toiletries
 - 2 or more pairs of tennis shoes
 - 2 pairs of socks per day
 - Light jackets or sweatshirt
 - Flashlight
 - Plastic/LaundryBag(for Dirty/Wet Clothes)
 - Your own Pillow
 - Hand Sanitizer
 - Soap/Shampoo/Conditioner/ Brush/comb
 - Loose fitting clothing
 - Hat
 - Sunglasses
 - Sunscreen
 - Raincoat/Poncho
 - Long pants
 - Insect Repellent
 - Phone/Charger/Headphones

PLEASE DO NOT BRING: valuable electronics/gaming systems/TVs/etc

Fall 2023 MHS Band Schedule

Calendar, Music, and all Required Forms will be available on www.redbluemhsband.com

Send an email to info@mohiganband.com to be put on our email list

Please direct questions to lorne.hyskell@k12.wv.us

4/25	Step Up Night	6:00 PM
5/23	Band Camp Meeting	7:00 PM

We will meet with all Fall 23 members of the Red and Blue Marching Band to discuss logistics about Jackson's Mill and coordinate Chaperone sign ups. This will occur in the MHS Auditorium.

7/7	Leadership Clinic (Section Leaders Only)	8 am - 12 pm
7/7	Leaders + Freshmen	1 pm - 6 pm
7/10	Full Band	3 pm - 8 pm
7/11	Flute Sectional	8 am - 8 :45 am
	Woodwind Sectional	9 am - 11 am
	Tuba Sectional	12 pm - 12:45 pm
	Brass Sectional	1 pm - 3 pm
7/12	Clarinet Sectional	8 am - 8 :45 am
	Woodwind Sectional	9 am - 11 am
	Low Brass Sectional	12 pm - 12:45 pm
	Brass Sectional	1 pm - 3 pm
7/13	Alto / Mellophone Sectional	8 am - 8 :45 am
	Woodwind Sectional	9 am - 11 am
	Trumpet Sectional	12 pm - 12:45 pm
	Brass Sectional	1 pm - 3 pm
7/14	Full Band	3 pm - 8 pm
7/17	Full Band	3 pm - 8 pm
7/18	Flute Sectional	8 am - 8 :45 am
	Woodwind Sectional	9 am - 11 am
	Tuba Sectional	12 pm - 12:45 pm
	Brass Sectional	1 pm - 3 pm
7/18	Band Auxiliary Meeting (in MHS Band Room)	7 pm
7/19	Clarinet Sectional	8 am - 8 :45 am
	Woodwind Sectional	9 am - 11 am
	Low Brass Sectional	12 pm - 12:45 pm
	Brass Sectional	1 pm - 3 pm
7/20	Alto / Mellophone Sectional	8 am - 8 :45 am

	Woodwind Sectional	9 am - 11 am
	Trumpet Sectional	12 pm - 12:45 pm
	Brass Sectional	1 pm - 3 pm
7/21	Band Photos	8 am - 12 pm
7/24-29	Away Band Camp @ Jackson's Mill	ALL WEEK
7/31	Mon County Fair Parade	5 pm
8/3	After School Practice (Every M and R)	5:45 pm - 7:30 pm
8/17	Mohigan Mania	TBD
8/22	Band Auxiliary Meeting (in MHS Band Room)	7 pm
8/25	Mohigans vs. South Charleston (Youth Night)	6:15 pm (at Secret Spot)
9/1	Mohigans @ Bridgeport (TENTATIVE)	TBD
9/8	Mohigans vs. Musselman (Hall of Fame)	5:30 pm (at Secret Spot)
9/9	Fairmont Band Spectacular	TBD
9/19	Band Auxiliary Meeting (in MHS Band Room)	7 pm
9/27	MHS Homecoming Parade	5:00 pm
9/28	Buckwheat Parade (Thursday)	TBD
9/29	Mohigans vs. Wheeling Park (Homecoming)	5:30 pm (at Secret Spot)
10/6	Mohigans @ Fairmont Sr. (TENTATIVE)	TBD
10/9	UHS Band Showcase	TBD
10/12	MHS Band Spectacular (@ MHS)	4:30 pm
10/13	Mohigans vs. Parkersburg South	5:30 pm (at Secret Spot)
10/14	Fort Ligonier Days Parade	TBD
10/17	Band Auxiliary Meeting (in MHS Band Room)	7 pm
10/20	WVU Homecoming Parade	6 pm
10/27	Mohigans @ University High (MoHawk Bowl)	TBD
11/3	Mohigans vs. Linsly (Senior Night)	5:30 pm (at Secret Spot)
11/9	Spirit of America Concert	TBD
11/11	Veterans Day Parade	TBD
11/21	Band Auxiliary Meeting (in MHS Band Room)	7 pm
12/4	Morgantown Christmas Parade	6 pm
12/8	Star City Christmas Parade	6 pm
12/12	MHS Holiday Concert	7 pm
2/24	Regional Jazz Adjudication	8 am
3/27-28	WV Band Adjudication	During School
4/xx	MHS Spring Concert	TBD
5/25	MHS Graduation	8 am