

# Morgantown High School

**Red and Blue**

**Marching Band**



## Handbook 2024-2025

Auxiliary Email: [info@mohiganband.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:info@mohiganband.com)

Band Website: [redbluemhsband.com](http://redbluemhsband.com)

Band Office: 304-291-9266

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Assistant Band Director.....Mr. Brian Reed ([brian.reed@k12.wv.us](mailto:brian.reed@k12.wv.us))

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

Band Auxiliary Vice President.....Mrs. Jill Fogelman

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

Band Auxiliary Treasurer.....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 – 75<sup>th</sup> 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  
2025 -- Dollywood, Gatlinburg, TN



## 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 *TRY* 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 Experiences

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.

## HOW TO PRACTICE MUSIC

1. Pick the section/spot you struggle with the most.
2. Begin by looking at the time signatures, style, 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!**

## **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 entire line 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 in the trailer and the back room.

### **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.

**Underclassman Representatives (2 each):** 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, the band office must be notified **BY EMAIL** and by a parent at least **3 DAYS IN ADVANCE**, so that your situation may be fully considered. All conflicts must be approved by the band directors and instructors involved.

**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).

*There are no ways to make up for a missed rehearsal or performance.*

On the Band Auxiliary website, <https://www.redbluemhsband.com>, there is a calendar of events for the 2024-2025 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: the time at which things formally begin.

**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 a 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 if Unexcused, possible loss of performing privileges for both instances.

**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 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. If they come to a practice without the proper equipment, uniform, or materials, they will receive a "late" and consequences 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.

Promptness is also packing up and loading the trailer in a quick and efficient manner. **You** are responsible for loading your own equipment at the end of every rehearsal. DO NOT leave the band room with your instrument out of its case. After you are finished with packing up, help your peers put their instruments away and anything else that they need.

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

- If absences or tardies at any point become habitual, loss of points will continue.
  - Tardiness to a Football Game Performance results in loss of "marching in" privilege.
  - Two consecutive lates to practices or performances will result in loss of points and loss of "marching in" privilege.
  - If lates continue to occur, points and privileges will continue to be taken. Loss of privileges will get progressively larger.
- There will be a Bi-Monthly "Rewards Day" at the end of Even Units (2, 4). It will be a Monday or a Thursday (depending on weather) and will **REPLACE** the practice for that day. Attendance will not be mandatory, but encouraged. It will involve activities at the band room such as Class Olympics, Video Games, Movies, Frisbee, Music / Dancing, etc. to be set by the Band Officers and Band Directors.
  - To be eligible to attend "Rewards Days", students may have **UP TO 4** points accumulated. Medical Excuse = 0 pts, Late = 1 pt, Excused = 2 pts, Unexcused = 4 pts.
- If students are absent from Thursday's practice, excused or unexcused, the directors reserve the right to deny them performance in the field show or parades until they've attended practice.
  - Death in the Family will be exempt and carry no penalty.
  - If a student is absent from school, they can be excused from practice; if they're at school but miss practice, they need to turn in a doctor's note.
- **EXCUSED ABSENCE EXAMPLES (require communication):**
  - Governor's School for the Arts
  - MHS Sponsored Events (must split time; cannot always miss band)
- **UNEXCUSED ABSENCE EXAMPLES:**
  - Overslept - set an alarm next time
  - Out of Town - Band Calendar is published well in advance. Only excused if told 3+ weeks in advance. Always unexcused once school starts.
  - Concerts / Movies / Events - see above
  - Instrument / Dance / Etc. lessons - missing instruction to get instruction is a paradox
- **POINT VALUES:**
  - **Performance:** 100 points per unit; 25 for on time, 25 for prepared, 25 for participation, 25 for correct attire
    - Late / Unprepared / Poor Participation will cost 8 points per occurrence, Unexcused Absence will cost 16 points per occurrence
  - **Rehearsal:** 100 points per unit; 25 for on time, 25 for prepared, 25 for participation, 25 for correct attire

- Late / Unprepared / Poor Participation will cost 3 points per occurrence, Unexcused Absence will cost 6 points per occurrence

## **BAND ROOM**

The band room must remain as secure as possible. Please do not bring visitors into the band room without notifying directors for their approval beforehand. This includes after school hours.

**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. This means knocking in order to respect the privacy of anyone else who may be in there, and preventing a disturbance to the directors' work.

# 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.

## 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.....*

- 1) Band Practice vs. Sports Practice = split time 50% (if time completely overlaps, then split hours; if days overlap, alternate days)
- 2) Band Performance vs. Sports Practice = Band Performance is priority
- 3) Band Practice vs. Sports Game / Match /etc. = Sports Game is priority
- 4) Band Performance vs. Sports Game = split time 50%; if you miss a band performance for a sport game this week, then next time you need to miss your game for the band performance

# **SUMMER BAND**

**(July 2024)**

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

We do two weeks of “Day Camp” (which is on- campus at MHS) followed by a week of “Away Camp”.

Attendance is taken during summer band, which includes the full band and sectionals, and will be considered throughout the season.

## **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) BEFORE the designated time, usually 5:30 - 5:45 pm.
2. Retrieve your instrument and report to the announced location (Secret Spot).
3. Upon arrival, assemble in sections for warm up and tuning, to be led by section leader(s).
4. Following warm ups, Band will play in concert formation.
5. Line up in parade formation and face the park. We will run a couple songs / shorts before leaving.
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). Remain standing until the M&Ms are finished with Pre-Game and off the field.
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 the bleachers.
12. Students are released ½ at a time to concessions and restrooms but all members need to return before the end of the 3rd Quarter.
13. Band plays between the 3rd and 4th quarters and during the 4th quarter.
14. At the end of the game, the band will play Pep Song, and when the team comes over, the Alma Mater. We might also perform a post-game stand up concert from the bleachers or field.
15. Band is dismissed to put away instruments. 1 section will clean bleachers. 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.**
- Non-members of the band (parents, alumni, family, peers, etc.) may not be inside the fence on field level without explicit permission from a Director.
- 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. 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**

When all fees have been paid and 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 2024-2025 AMOUNT DUE DATE**

**Band Camp \$410**

**Uniform \$50.00**

**TOTAL \$460.00**

**Instrument Rental** (Includes M&Ms & Percussion) \$30.00

**TOTAL WITH RENTAL \$490.00**

### **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.

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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. 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 toward their student. 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

WHITE DINKLES

JACKET

WHITE CREW SOCKS

PANTS

WHITE BAND BALL CAP

HAT

PLUME (given to students before performance)

HAT BOX

GARMENT BAG

BAND SHIRT (current year)

GLOVES (depending on section)

## 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 22- 27, 2024**

**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**

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



### Time Description

08:00 – 08:45 am Raise Flag and have Breakfast

09:00 – 09:45 am Sectional Practice/Field

10:00 – 11:45 am Field Work

12:00 – 12:45 pm Lunch

01:00 – 01:45 pm Sectional Practice/Field

02:00 – 04:00 pm Field Work

04:15 – 05:00 pm Vespers Practice

05:30 – 06:15 pm Lower Flag and have Dinner

06:30 – 07:00 pm Vespers

07:00 – Dark Field Work

Evening Activity

Note that this is only a sample schedule and is subject to change.



# 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. Our band handbook emphasizes the importance of safety and accountability, and sneaking out undermines both. By respecting the established guidelines and curfew, you'll ensure that you can fully enjoy the wide range of exciting experiences and opportunities that our band has to offer. Failure to do so will result in restricting all recreational activities for the week.
- Absolutely 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. It is also wise to call your leaders *Sir* and *Ma'am* when it is appropriate to do so.
- 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 Morgantown High School Red and Blue Marching Band Camp.

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.

## GRADES

Because Marching Band is Co-Curricular, the line is blurred between school day and extracurricular. Think of outside-of-school practices as “Homework” and Performances as “Tests”.

During the Fall Semester, we break the “season” into four (4) units for Homework (Practices) and the same four (4) units for Tests (Performances). The units are July/August (Unit 1), September (Unit 2), October (Unit 3), and November/December (Unit 4). Attendance and participation at practices constitutes a “Homework Grade”, and attendance and participation at a performance constitutes a “Test Grade”.

Each unit is 100 points, as noted below. The following attendance model will be used to calculate grades:

**Unexcused Absence (Practice):** Deduction of 6 (six) points for each occurrence.

**Unexcused Absence (Performance):** Deduction of 16 (sixteen) points for each occurrence.

**Excused Absence (Practice):** Deduction of 6 (six) points for every 3 occurrences.

**Excused Absence (Performance):** Deduction of 16 (sixteen) points for every 3 occurrences.

**Late (Practice):** Deduction of 3 (three) points for each occurrence.

**Late (Performance):** Deduction of 8 (eight) points for each occurrence.

**Unprepared (Practice):** Deduction of 3 (three) points for each occurrence.

**Unprepared (Performance):** Deduction of 8 (eight) points for each occurrence.

**Medical Absence (ALL):** Medical absences, **with documentation from a physician**, are fully excused and do not impact damage to grades.

| Assignment           | Unit 1     | Unit 2     | Unit 3     | Unit 4     | Unit 5     |
|----------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Homework (Practices) | 100 points | 100 points | 100 points | 100 points | 100 points |
| Tests (Performances) | 100 points | 100 points | 100 points | 100 points | 100 points |
| Total                | 200 points | 200 points | 200 points | 200 points | 200 points |

# 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 and 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 5 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 lead sheets, and will work towards memorizing several Jazz Standards and be able to perform them on command. This class performs 8 to 16 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; seniority is not a factor.

## **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.