

Mount Pleasant Bands

Student and Parent Handbook



*Every musician is looking for something special. We have found it.
We are Mount Pleasant Band. Welcome home.*

Directors: Keith Lee & Charlie Fisher

2019-2020

Welcome from the Director

I believe this will certainly be a memorable, exciting year for all of us. Band is one of the most rewarding experiences in which you can be a part. Experts have found the study of music helps improve academic test scores, social and emotional development, time management, leadership, and self-discipline. Each new school year brings many changes, and this year obviously brings more than most. I hope each band member has a wonderful year full of new friendships, great memories, and rewarding musical experiences. More importantly, I hope each of us takes seriously our opportunity to continue to grow our program into one of the finest band programs in our area. That can certainly be a reality, and you will all play a vital role in achieving that goal. I look forward to making that journey with you and your family.

Every student and parent should carefully review the information within this handbook, as it is designed to be a guide to the operating procedures of the Mount Pleasant High School Bands. This year will certainly bring new procedures, new ways of doing certain things, and new expectations. This handbook will attempt to clearly define my expectations of each band member, lay out the best practices which we have developed over the last decade, and highlight my vision for the future of the program. It will serve as the “Band Bible” in terms of our rules and procedures. Become familiar with these policies and procedures, as most answers for many common questions can be found here.

This year promises to be an exciting adventure. Both marching and concert ensembles will be active! We'll perform for marching contests, football games, parades, winter and spring concerts, and SCDBA MPA. We also hope to present opportunities for the formation of small ensembles.

This handbook is meant to answer any questions you may have about the many facets of our program. Please read all the information carefully and completely and contact me should you have any questions.

Lastly, information about the band and its many activities can be found in any number of ways.

1. Come to the band booster meetings on the first Monday of each month. The meeting is at 7:00pm in the high school band room.
2. Bookmark and regularly visit the band's website at www.mpband.org. All schedules, files, calendar, and other information reside there.
3. Join and frequently check for updates on the band Facebook page – search for MP Bands
4. Regularly check your Cut Time accounts (www.cutttime.net) for calendar updates, newsletters, etc. This will also be used for students to post assignments, track inventory, etc.

I am truly honored to be your band director and I'm looking forward to an outstanding year!

Musically,

Keith J. Lee
Director of Bands

SECTION I – GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

The band program is one of the largest and most time-engaging organizations at Mount Pleasant High School. Therefore, the program must be designed to be as procedural as possible so that daily operations run smoothly and efficiently. The policies and procedures outlined in this handbook help to ensure that all aspects of the band program run properly and that each student has a safe and successful experience. Please do not ask for exceptions to these rules. At times, unforeseen circumstances may warrant the modification of a policy. When these situations occur, modifications may be made on a case-by-case basis, but only in extreme cases, and only at the discretion of the Director and/or school administrator. Please note that it is impossible to anticipate every situation that may occur in the daily workings of the band program. In instances where a policy is not outlined in this handbook, the Director will make a decision that is in the best interest of the program and/or the student(s) involved. This handbook is meant to serve as a general operating procedure contract between the Director, students, parents, and school administrators. If you have a general question about a policy or procedure, please consult the handbook first. Most answers to common questions may be found here.

Again, please make sure that you familiarize yourself with the content of this handbook, complete the forms at the end of the handbook, and return them to the band office.

“We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit.” -- Aristotle

OBJECTIVES OF THE BAND PROGRAM

- To teach music through performance
- To develop each individual into a responsible, contributing member of a larger group
- To teach an appreciation of multiple styles and genres of music
- To develop individual and group performance skills
- To introduce students to music history and music theory through their relation to performance literature
- To provide for the musical needs of the school and the community
- To provide all students with a high-quality musical and social experience
- To uncover self-discipline and leadership skills within each individual
- To provide each student a variety of performing ensembles and performance opportunities to develop well-rounded musicians
- To provide lasting, positive memories and experiences which will help students become consumers and supporters of all forms of music

PERFORMING ENSEMBLES

Students of Mount Pleasant High School have many opportunities for musical growth and development through participation in both large and small ensembles throughout the year. Membership in each ensemble has its own set of requirements and expectations for its members. Although each course has different guidelines and requirements, the overarching goal of each is to provide each band member with a varied, yet comprehensive, approach to music education.

Wind Ensemble

The Wind Ensemble is the premiere performing ensemble at Mount Pleasant High School. The ensemble meets during the fall and spring semesters. Students focus on advanced aspects of individual and group performance. It will also strive to develop each member's skills and use of music theory, music history, and ear training. The Wind Ensemble is designed to offer music students the opportunity to study and play music in a wide variety of performance venues, and will play primarily Level IV and V. The ensemble will perform several concerts during the year, as well as participate in the South-Central District Bandmasters Association Concert Band Musical Performance Assessment (MPA). In addition, it may travel and compete during the spring of each year. Members will be expected to learn all major scales, the chromatic scale to proficient range on the instrument, plus general proficiency in sight-reading. Each member is responsible for purchasing his or her own formal concert attire.

Marching Band

Membership in the marching band program requires the ability to play appropriate literature for the activity while also meeting the physical demands of playing while moving. It will be one of the most active and visible organizations in our school. This ensemble will perform for all home football games, select away games, several competitions, parades, school functions, and other special events each fall. The ensemble is designed for all band students with an emphasis on presenting a dignified and appropriate approach to music and movement. All marching band students are strongly encouraged to participate in a concert ensemble during both the first and second semester in order to continue the development of musical skills. Members will be expected to attend band camp (prior to the start of school), be at all after school rehearsals and performances, and adhere to the behavior guidelines set forth later in this handbook. In addition, there is a \$500.00 fee to participate in this ensemble. Uniforms are provided for each member at no additional cost.

Chamber Ensembles

Small ensembles may be formed after school during the fall and spring semester. All band members are encouraged to participate. Possible groups are brass quintet, woodwind quartet or quintet, flute choir, saxophone quartet, tuba/euphonium ensemble, etc. These groups may be featured on concerts, may have a dedicated concert for their performances, and may perform for the Solo and Ensemble Festival held each spring.

Jazz Ensemble

The Jazz Ensemble will be offered after school during the second semester if there is sufficient demand to fully staff the band. It is designed for advanced musicians who desire instruction and participation in jazz studies. Membership will come from members of the Wind Ensemble, so a student must be enrolled in a band class in order to participate. Guitar and piano players who are not members of the Band will also be eligible for membership if these positions are not filled by a Band member. All players will be selected through audition, and the requirements of the audition will be determined and announced by the Director several weeks before the audition date.

Philosophy of Practice

Even though programs meet daily during the school day, the band and its members will never improve unless each student makes a commitment to practice his or her instrument at home each day to improve individual playing skills from class to class. Students are required to practice thirty minutes every night on their music. This means that each student is expected to take his or her instrument, music, and classroom exercises home every night, and students who fail to do so may have their performance grades reduced. In other academic classes homework is given nightly, and likewise in band, daily practice is considered homework. Regular playing assessments will be given to ensure that each member is practicing on a regular basis. Those students who choose not to practice at home will find it difficult to receive high marks on these playing assessments. Please do not expect to “play at” something and receive a passing grade. Besides, why would parents pay hundreds of dollars on instruments, accessories, lessons, music, band fees, etc. for you to leave your instrument in a locker to collect dust?

PROGRAM RESPONSIBILITIES

Each instructor, student, and parent have responsibilities in a successful band program. Listed below are those areas that each of us will be expected to honor. Any student who is enrolled in the band class and does not work hard to make constant and steady progress is wasting the time of himself or herself, fellow students, instructors, and the parents' financial resources. We firmly believe that the happiest student is the one who is consistently improving through regular, daily practice and growth as an individual. He or she must not only know wrong from right but must be able to stand for goals and principles and develop a high sense of purpose toward which he or she is willing to work. We intend to conduct the program in a manner that will encourage all students to reach these goals.

What Are My Responsibilities?

The Band Member's Responsibilities:

1. Have regular attendance and account for all absences with a doctor's note.
2. Make a real effort to learn and improve daily.
3. Become responsible for and expect to assume consequences for your actions.
4. Be personally clean and neat and dress appropriately at all times.
5. Have the proper respect for adults who spend their free time working with you.
6. Follow all rules and regulations in the classroom and when the band travels.
7. Be honest and fair with others concerning music, equipment, and school life.
8. Follow instructions the first time they are given.
9. Take responsibility for you own actions; do not lie, cheat, or steal.
10. Make sure that your attitudes are positive and in check at all times.
11. Arrive BEFORE the scheduled rehearsal time. NEVER BE LATE!!
12. Bring all required materials to each class or rehearsal. A positive attitude, a strong work ethic, and an open mind are also needed at all times.
13. Take ownership of your ensemble and have extreme pride you your work.

The Band Director's Responsibilities:

1. Provide students with the proper rehearsal space, storage and equipment as considered necessary to aid in the development of the student's musical ability and good citizenship habits.
2. Plan each day's assignments and encourage the daily progress of the band.
3. Provide the band with a full musical education through rehearsal, performance, listening, written assignments, and evaluation.
4. See to it that any disruptive students are dealt with in a fair and consistent manner so that the music education of others is not disrupted.
5. Dismiss any students who are not adding to the program due to poor attitude.
6. Evaluate the progress of each band member.
7. Supervise all students and staff.

The Parent's Responsibilities:

1. Be supportive and encouraging to your child or children and be supportive of the efforts of other band members.
2. Attend Band Booster meetings and volunteer to be a part of its many facets and functions.
3. Be a positive advocate of the band program to friends, family, administrators, district personnel, and community members.
4. Make sure that your child has all of the resources to be successful in his or her musical endeavors.
5. Attend as many concerts, performances, and competitions as possible.
6. Take an active role in your child's musical education on the most basic level – ask him or her to play for you and your family often.
7. Make sure your child arrives on time, and that rides are ready in a timely manner at the end of each event.

GRADE EVALUATION

In every academic class, a passing grade is 70 on a 100-point scale. However, if a musician playing a solo performed only seven of every ten notes correctly, an audience would not judge the performance, or the performer, favorably. Now imagine that each member of a sixty-piece ensemble such as ours missed three out of every ten notes during a performance. There would be thousands of wrong notes during the performance, and we would never want to perform again in public (or private!) if this were to happen. Therefore, students are expected to rise above the “it sounded okay to me,” or “I got most of the notes right” mentality. Each student must make perfection his or her goal at all times and work daily to come as close to this goal as possible. Remember, we are an ensemble, and we will only sound and perform as good as our weakest member.

The following areas will be used when making grade and conduct evaluations for progress reports and report cards:

- Consistent improvement on your instrument through at-home practice
- Playing, based on appropriate classroom instruction (this includes individual playing tests)
- Cooperation, conduct, being on time, and appearance in uniform (participation)
- Written exams, aural skills, and classroom theory work
- Attendance at all rehearsals and performances – NO EXCEPTIONS!! (participation)
- Having all materials at each rehearsal
- *Failure to bring an instrument to class, failure to play an instrument in class, or having an instrument that is not in proper playing condition will result in ten points being deducted from the daily participation grade*

The standard Cabarrus County Schools grading scale will be used to assign all letter grades. Grades for all ensembles will be awarded according to the following method:

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| • Playing Tests | 30% |
| • Daily In-Class Performance Preparation/Participation | 30% |
| • Concert Performances | 30% |
| • Classwork, Assignments, and Tiger Time Attendance | 10% |

Cabarrus County Schools Grading Scale:

- A = 90-100
- B = 80-89
- C = 70-79
- D = 60-69
- F = 59 and below

PLEASE NOTE: If a student's personal instrument is in poor playing condition, he or she is expected to take it to a repair shop immediately. Failure to do so will result in a failing grade due to loss of daily participation points. If a student must take an instrument in to be repaired, get a signed note or voucher from the music dealer. This will serve as your “pass” for your instrument and you will not lose any points while your instrument is being repaired or serviced.

In order to continue in the Mount Pleasant Band program, a student must maintain an average of “C” or better and have no significant behavior problems. Students who do not meet these criteria will be removed from the band program. At Mount Pleasant, we all pull our own weight. This is how we will establish, build, and maintain a solid tradition of excellence!

AWARDS

Each year, members of the band earn a variety of awards within the Mount Pleasant Band program. Awards for both semesters are presented each year at the Band Banquet at the end of the year. The event is open to all band members and their families. To be eligible for an award, you must participate in an ensemble during the year, have good attendance, a good work record, and not have received any formal disciplinary actions during the year. Please see the awards merit system for an explanation on receiving awards and letters.

OPERATING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Behavior Expectations

Productive rehearsals are the backbone of a strong instrumental music program and must run efficiently to accomplish the goals of the program. These procedures ensure that this goal will be met. ***No student has the right to interfere with the music education of the rest of the band because he or she does not have the self-control to follow rehearsal procedures. Check your responsibility and your attitude carefully!***

CONDUCT IN THE BAND ROOM

1. There will be absolutely no food, drinks, candy, or gum brought into the band room at any time unless authorized by the Director. Students should eat their lunches in the cafeteria, and refrain from bringing food to the band room. Do not get mad at me when I ask you to throw away food and/or drink. Water in small containers or bottles will be allowed.
2. Textbooks and other school-related materials from other classes are to be taken home at the end of the day. Books and materials left in the band room shall be removed at the end of the week. No backpacks, books, personal property, or cases will be allowed under your chair or in the rehearsal area.
3. Do not handle instruments or equipment that is not yours or allow another student to handle yours. Only percussionists are allowed to handle percussion instruments. Only color guard members are allowed to handle guard equipment. In short, if it's not yours, never touch it!
4. If you have not been assigned a school owned instrument, do not take it upon yourself to grab one to use. They must be properly signed out to you for your use. If you take an instrument that has not been properly assigned to you and something happens to it (i.e. – lost, stolen, damaged) and you have been found to be the one to have taken that instrument, I am going to turn the matter over to the SRO for proper criminal charges to be filed for theft.
5. Students will be held financially accountable for damage to school-owned instruments or property, including uniforms, instruments, music, equipment, and any other item or items that are the property of Mount Pleasant High School or the Mount Pleasant High School Band Booster Organization.

REHEARSALS IN THE BAND ROOM

1. Required equipment: all music, a working pencil (NEVER A PEN!), at least three playable reeds (preferably five, in daily rotation), necessary oils and greases used to keep your instrument in working order, and instruments in top playing condition at all rehearsals. This also means instruments should be clean.
2. All talking and playing shall cease when the Director or appropriate staff member takes his place in front of the group. Students are asked to raise their hand to be recognized for talking. Talking in rehearsal WILL NOT be tolerated.

3. There will be no playing of instruments between pieces, or when the Director or Staff Member stops to rehearse the ensemble. When the Director or Staff Member stops conducting, everyone is expected to stop playing immediately and listen for instruction. All percussion sticks and mallets will remain still, and members will avoid distracting others by “air drumming” or playing on practice pads or other surfaces.
4. There shall be no talking when anyone is addressing the band, including guest conductors, other teachers, special guests, or any parent or volunteer. This is simple courtesy and will be extended to any person who uses his or her personal time to benefit our band.
5. At the conclusion of rehearsal, all band notebooks and equipment will be placed in the appropriately assigned cubby or will be taken home. NEVER LEAVE MUSIC ON THE MUSIC STAND! Stands should be lowered and straightened or put back on the storage racks (listen for instructions from Student Leadership, Staff, or the Director).

No student should ever feel that he or she has the right or ability to inappropriately talk back to the Director, a band staff member, a band parent, another teacher, administrator, school employee, or any adult. Requests are made of you for a good reason and are made of you for your common good. If you feel that you have been asked to do something unreasonable, DO NOT argue with the person who asked you to do it. Comply with the request immediately, then come talk to the Director and we will discuss your situation. You are students and you have not earned or been given the right to arbitrarily talk back to any adult associated with Mount Pleasant High School. Slouching, rolling eyes, failure to make eye contact, sucking at your teeth, or any other inappropriate gesture is considered rude and unacceptable! If this is a problem for you, then don't join the band! Bad attitudes of any kind will not be tolerated, and will result in lowered grades, loss of performance and/or travel privileges, or removal from the band program.

REHEARSALS OUTSIDE THE BANDROOM

1. All general rules of the band room apply to any rehearsal on the field, on the concert stage, at any competition venue, or at any other performance outside of the band room.
2. Members are expected to follow instructions the first time that they are given. All instructions are given for a good reason. Even if you do not understand the rationale behind the request, comply with it immediately. We will never ask you to do anything that isn't for your individual or group benefit.
3. On the marching field, members are expected to remain in their assigned set or other field position at “Parade Rest” and remain quiet and ready to receive instruction.
4. All rehearsals are considered to be “Silent Rehearsals,” meaning no student should be talking unless they have been acknowledged to do so through raising their hand or the Director or a Staff member is talking to them.

SUPPLIES

Students are to provide their own supplies and accessories (reeds, oil, slide grease, etc.). Supplies may be easily purchased at any of the area music dealers. Students are encouraged to always have extra supplies on hand, especially reed instrument players. The following is a list of supplies that players are expected to own, according to the instrument that is played:

1. All students need a 1 inch, three binder with 5 dividers.
2. All brass players should purchase valve oil (or slide oil), and tuning slide cream.
3. All players are encouraged to buy a step-up mouthpiece if you did not do so in middle school. Please see Mr. Lee for a list of appropriate mouthpieces. DO NOT allow any music store to offer you a mouthpiece without first talking to Mr. Lee to see if it is appropriate. Just because it is shiny and new does not necessarily mean that you are getting your money's worth, or that it is the perfect match for your ability level!

4. Clarinets and Saxophones are required to purchase Vandoren, Hemke, or Legere reeds, or their equivalent, with a thickness of at least 3. Thicker reeds are encouraged. **DO NOT BUY RICO REEDS!**
5. All single reed players are required to have a Rovner ligature, or the equivalent.
 - Percussionists are generally provided mallets and sticks for marching band purposes. If a percussionist is negligent and destroy mallets or sticks through being careless or malicious, they will be required to purchase the replacement for the sticks/mallets they destroy.
 - For Wind Ensemble:
 - Personal stick/mallet bag – used to carry and protect sticks and mallets
 - A pair of Vic-Firth SD-1 general snare drumsticks
 - A pair of hard plastic or rubber mallets – for bells and xylophone
 - A pair of medium yarn mallets – used for suspended cymbal and keyboard instruments
 - A pair of medium hard (general) timpani mallets – for timpani, timbale, and conga

All other specialty mallets, such as bass drum, chime beaters, etc. will be provided for you by the band program. Yes, these are expensive; however, other band students spend hundreds or thousands of dollars for their instruments and accessories. Therefore, it is not unreasonable to ask that you provide similar equipment. The other alternative is that I provide you with sticks and mallets, and you purchase your own symphonic grand marimba, timpani, bass drum, etc. You do the math! If you have previously purchased equipment, and it is still in good working condition you will not need to purchase new ones. See Mr. Lee immediately if you have any questions. All percussion players will be expected to play all keyboard percussion instruments, timpani, snare, and bass drum. You will learn scales and rudiments just as other instruments do. You must have these mallets and sticks in order to participate. Your participation grade depends on it!

School Owned Equipment

1. There is a \$25.00 rental fee, per student, per semester for the use of these instruments. This fee covers general maintenance (not caused by negligence) and cleaning. Normal “wear and tear” issues will be paid for by band funds. Any other liability for damage or loss of instrument will be charged to the student and parent.
2. The director will make every effort to assign one instrument per student. In rare cases, school-owned equipment may be assigned to more than one person. The student/students shall accept full responsibility for care and treatment of that instrument. The student and the student’s parents shall be liable for any damage to the instrument if it is caused by negligence, improper handling and/or mistreatment. All students must complete an Instrument Loan Form for each school year that the instrument is used.
3. No person except the person to whom it is assigned (unless instructed by the Director) should play or handle school-owned instruments. Percussion instruments are to be played only by percussionists.
4. Most school owned instruments will be issued without mouthpieces. Students will be expected to supply his or her own mouthpiece. All students are strongly encouraged to buy personal step-up mouthpieces. See Mr. Lee for a list of quality mouthpieces.
5. All guard and percussion players are expected to treat school-owned property with respect and care. Any misuse of the provided equipment will result in the parent and student facing a replacement or repair charge.

Library Policies

1. Only the Director or band librarians may have access to filed or boxed music at any time. Only these people should touch the copy machine or be in the music library.
2. Please inform the librarian of your need for music BEFORE or AFTER rehearsal or class. A 24-hour notice would be appreciated.
3. Students are responsible for the upkeep of their band notebooks. If you fail to receive a particular piece when the music is distributed, it is your responsibility to inform the librarian immediately.
4. Music must be removed from the stands at the end of each class/rehearsal. DO NOT leave music on the stand and expect it to be there when you return.
5. Failure to own your own personal copy for at-home practice will result in grade deductions. Bottom line: keep up with your music at all times!
6. Notes or changes on music should be made when necessary using a soft lead pencil – NEVER a pen.

SECTION II – SPECIFICS FOR THE CONCERT ENSEMBLES

Please refer to the opening sections of this handbook for detailed information concerning rehearsals, attendance policies, grading policies, etc. Most of the information that applies to the Marching Band will also apply to the semester ensembles.

Sectionals/Rehearsals – Concert/Festival Season

Throughout the year, sectionals and/or afterschool rehearsals may be called by the Director to ensure that the ensemble is properly prepared for the event. All sectionals or rehearsals will begin promptly at 2:30 pm and will end at 4:30 pm. Attendance will be mandatory at these rehearsals, and failure to attend may result in being ineligible to travel and compete with the ensemble.

Concert Formalwear

Each student will be required to purchase formal concert apparel. Mr. Lee will make arrangements for fitting and ordering during the class time. We will all order our attire from the same company, though any student who owns a tuxedo may be able to wear that in lieu of purchasing another. Gentlemen will wear tuxedos and ladies will wear formal dresses. Cost will be a factor when selecting the company from which we order. All efforts will be made to keep costs at minimum. More info to come....

Extra-Curricular Performing Opportunities

Students will be encouraged to audition for and participate in regional honor band clinics, as well as Solo and Ensemble Festival. By participating in band, and auditioning for these events, a student helps to fulfill the requirement for the band letter, service bar, or other awards. These events include, but are not limited to, the following:

All-District – selects the top wind and percussion players in our region of the state. Auditions occur in January. Audition requirements include major scales, a prepared solo (selected by the clinic officials, not the student), and sight-reading. If selected, students will represent Mount Pleasant at the clinic in Gastonia.

All-State Band – based upon the audition for District Band, a student may be “called back” to audition for All-State Band. The audition is similar to the District Band requirements, but this time students from all across the state, not just our district, will be trying for a seat in the band. If selected, students will represent Mount Pleasant at the clinic at either UNC – Greensboro or UNC – Chapel Hill.

Band Clinics/Honors Bands/Community Groups – several surrounding universities, in conjunction with their music departments, offer band clinics in the late fall and early spring. Students are often nominated based upon their interest in participating and, upon selection, will travel to the hosting university. In addition, there are several local opportunities for students to further their musical experience. These include the Charlotte Youth Wind Ensemble, the Charlotte Youth Symphony, and several other community bands. Interested students should see Mr. Lee for more information about these ensembles.

Private Lessons

All students in the band program are strongly encouraged to take private lessons on his or her instrument. Individual playing ability can only be improved so far within the confines of a full band rehearsal. Private lessons are the best method of achieving success individually and with the band as a whole. Mr. Lee will be happy to aid in this process in any way, whether by establishing a contact person through which students can look for a teacher or by providing facilities for the lesson to take place. Recent studies across the nation suggest that nearly 90% of the students in All-State Bands study privately. This is highly recommended for all students.

SECTION III – PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Parental support is truly needed for the band to be successful and to acquire monies for the purchasing of equipment and supplies that make a contribution to our success. Your cooperation is truly appreciated, and every parent is always invited to attend any band function. Mr. Lee welcomes your input and your thoughts on how we can achieve our common goals together.

While the Mount Pleasant High School Band receives support from the district and the school, the program is mostly self-supporting and has several fundraisers each year. These fundraisers are sponsored by our Band Boosters and help to defray the cost of the band fee, as well as to support the band’s general operating expenses. Part of the profits from many of the fundraisers support the program, while part of the profit goes to the individual student’s account.

Parents are encouraged to do their best to support the goals, policies, procedures, and decisions of your child’s Band Director. Often these are in place for a specific reason which may not be instantly understood but are for the common good of all band members. Please feel free to contact Mr. Lee should you have any questions.

At home, require your child to practice at least thirty minutes each day. This is a standing homework assignment from the band, and your student should never say that he or she does not have a nightly practice assignment. Ask your child to play for you and your family weekly. They learn scales, rhythms, and music each day during class so they should always have something to play for you. Much of their grade in the class depends upon steady, committed practice at home. Do your best to encourage this to happen!

Help your child learn to be punctual and do your best to help them arrive on time for all scheduled rehearsals and performances. It is impossible to adequately rehearse with people late or missing from any scheduled event. Please help them understand the importance of starting on time.

Become involved! Attend all concerts and performances, join the Band Boosters and have a voice in the operations of the program, “pop in” at rehearsals to see what is happening with the band, and enthusiastically cheer your band every chance you get. They may never tell you, but your kids love this and come to depend upon it. They work very hard to make the best possible product, so let them know how much you appreciate what they do!

Band Booster Organization

The Mount Pleasant Band Booster Organization is a group of parents who support our band program by fundraising, volunteering, chaperoning, caring for uniforms, transporting and setting up equipment, organizing band activities, sending out newsletters, etc. There is always an area that you can volunteer to be a part of. We need you, and we strongly encourage all parents to become involved in this organization. Parents are involved in the planning aspects of the program and work closely with Mr. Lee and staff to create a positive, enjoyable, and successful band program. All parents are a vital part of their child’s success and we deeply value your input. We hope that you will join us this year.

SECTION IV - GENERAL INFORMATION

CUT TIME ACCOUNTS

All students and at least one parent/guardian of the students of the MP Band will be assigned a Cut Time account. This system will be utilized for:

- management of student finances (this function will be used in the near future; we will continue issuing paper statements until we are up and running with this)
- music instrument and music library inventory
- communication with parents, members, and staff (via e-mail and text)
- calendar management
- volunteer management
- student assignments
- file storage
- Alumni Tracker

We will work to establish these accounts over the next few weeks. Parents/guardians with multiple children in the program will have access to all of their children’s information in their parent portal.

FUNDRAISING

Every year, the Mount Pleasant Band program will conduct multiple fundraising events. These fundraisers can aid in the payment of your student’s band fees, the costs of trips, or any other expense your student may incur. Money earned will go towards the daily expenses of the group such as: music, instruction and transportation costs. Some of these fundraising activities may include working at the Cabarrus Arena, Charlotte Motor Speedway, yard sales, car washes and community service. All students are expected to participate in every fundraising effort. Student accounts will be set up for each band member, with specific percentages of fundraising money going toward these student accounts. This money can be used at the student’s discretion, as long as it is for a band related expense.

MEDICAL INFORMATION FORMS

All students are required to have a health form properly completed and signed by parents or guardians before they will be allowed to participate in band activities. On every trip the band takes, the health forms are taken along in the event of a medical emergency. Chaperones also assist the student with personal medical and hygiene problems, as well as the administration of prescribed medication from the student's doctor. They are also available to disburse other medications that would be used for minor medical ailments. Accurate and current information is very important, so please complete these forms as accurately as possible. Marching band students should have already filled these out and have these on file.

HANDBOOK ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

Once you and your child have read the entire handbook, there is a form where you will acknowledge that you have read the handbook, understand the all policies and procedures, and that your child will abide by all policies and procedures. The student is also required to sign the schedule acknowledgement form. This form is not to be taken lightly. Our ability to function as a performing ensemble depends on the attendance of every member at every rehearsal and performance event. We do not have back-ups or substitute players like a sports team.

WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

There are many ways to do any task, but we will always make it our mission to put forth 110% effort in everything that we do in the name of the Mount Pleasant Band. I never want our kids to know what it feels like for someone to be embarrassed for them. At some point in time we have all felt embarrassed for someone else, or some other team, or group, etc. We will never be that person, team, group, etc. We will work harder, smarter, and better than any other organization in North Carolina because we owe that work to our school, our community, our families, our alumni, and most importantly to ourselves. We will strive to instill in all people an awareness of music's important role in the enrichment of the human spirit. We will *Play Like Champions Everyday* because we know that *Excellence is not an event; it is a habit*, and we believe that *Pain is just weakness leaving the body*. Every musician is looking for something special. We have found it. We are Mount Pleasant Band. Welcome home.

SCHEDULE – WINTER/SPRING 2020

Please mark all dates on your calendar. All rehearsal and performance dates are mandatory. All events can be found on our calendars at www.mpband.org or through your Cut Time accounts (www.cutttime.net).

IMPORTANT DATES (tentative; events could be added/deleted)

| | | |
|-----------|--|-------------------|
| DATES TBD | After School Rehearsals for MPA (1 per week prior to MPA) | 2:30 PM – 4:30 PM |
| Mar 16 | Pre-MPA Dress Rehearsal | 2:30 PM – 4:30 PM |
| Mar 17 | Pre-MPA @ Hickory Ridge H.S. | 5:30 PM Call Time |
| Mar 23-27 | MPA Dress Rehearsals | 2:30 PM – 4:30 PM |
| Mar 23-27 | SCDBA MPA | Date/Time TBD |
| Apr 3 | CCS Month of the Arts Festival | TBD |
| May 17 | Dress Rehearsal (ALL) | 2:30 PM – 4:30 PM |
| May 18 | Dress Rehearsal (ALL) | 2:30 PM – 4:30 PM |
| May 19 | Dress Rehearsal (ALL) | 2:30 PM – 4:30 PM |
| May 21 | Spring Concert (ALL) | 5:30 PM Call Time |
| DATES TBD | Performance(s)/Events at MPES/MPMS (ALL) | TBD |
| June 13 | Graduation (ALL) | TBD |

Mount Pleasant Band Handbook Acknowledgement Form

Dear Parents and Students:

An electronic copy of the Mount Pleasant High School Band Handbook may be found at the band's website, www.mpband.org, under the "Documents" tab. You can also find this information by utilizing your Cut Time accounts (www.cutttime.net) and searching under the Files/Docs

The band handbook includes a large amount of information. It is our desire to keep you informed, and we solicit your cooperation and active support in our work. Therefore, please read through the handbook so that you may become acquainted with the policies under which our organization is governed.

After reading the handbook, please acknowledge the following statements by printing both student and parent name, as well as signing and dating in the appropriate places.

By my signature, I confirm that:

1. I have read the Band Handbook and agree to comply with the policies set forth therein. I agree that I will support the Band Director in following the policies within the handbook.
2. All band students must have a Medical Release form on file prior to traveling with the band. I authorize the Band Director or his designees to render or secure First Aid for my son or daughter in the event of sickness or accident at on- and off-campus rehearsals, performances, and activities, and while en route to or from them, and I give permission for the Band Director or his designee to secure immediate medical attention if necessary. I understand that parental contact will be made as soon as possible, and that treatment will follow the specifications listed by the parent or guardian on the Medical Release form. I also agree that I will be responsible for the cost of all necessary treatments and/or services given to my child.
3. I hereby give permission for my child to participate in all band activities (including performances, concert competitions, and activity trips) during the school year. I realize that this permission form will cover all band activities, whether individual or group trips, for the entire school year. I understand that all trips will be taken with carriers approved by the Cabarrus County School System and will comply with all local and state governing rules. I agree that I, as a parent or legal guardian, will be financially responsible for any damages that my child causes and will incur the cost to transport my child home from a trip if his or her behavior warrants immediate attention.

Parent's Name: _____ Date: _____

Parent E-Mail Address: _____

Parent's Signature: _____

Student's Name: _____ Date: _____

Student E-Mail Address: _____

Student's Signature: _____