

Mount Pleasant Marching Band

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

2024-2025

THE MOUNT PLEASANT MARCHING BAND HANDBOOK

The **Mount Pleasant Marching Band Handbook** contains information relating to marching band activities, band rules, scheduling and important release forms/information forms, which you are to complete and return. Please complete the forms and return them, along with your child's \$500.00 band fee, by August 2nd, 2024. If you are unable to provide payment in full prior to this date, we would be more than willing to set up a payment plan option for your family. To set up a payment plan, contact Keith Lee at 704-267-6707 or at keith.lee@cabarrus.k12.nc.us prior to August 1st, 2024.

WHAT TO DO

1. Please read the entire handbook with your student(s).
2. Encourage your student(s) to practice the fundamentals taught at Rookie Camp.
3. Complete the forms and return them to the director by August 2nd, 2024.
4. Please mark all dates on your calendar and free all dates. Attendance is **mandatory**.
5. Please volunteer to work for the Mount Pleasant Band Boosters. The band really needs your talents, ideas, and energy! We strive to be one of the leading programs in the state, but we cannot do that without the support of our parent volunteers.
6. Please remember that all rehearsals and all performances are mandatory. We try to limit the amount of rehearsal time that your son/daughter is required to attend. We also work very hard to make the most of the limited amount of rehearsal time that we do have.
7. If you should have any questions, please contact Mr. Lee at 704-267-6707 or via email at keith.lee@cabarrus.k12.nc.us.
8. Payment plan arrangements can also be worked out through Mr. Lee at the above listed contacts.

ATTENDANCE FOR BAND MEMBERS

All marching band activities are on the calendar accessible through the band website and through the designated communication platform that will be selected (more info to come). This should be your main source of information. All notable changes will be communicated as soon as possible.

Members are expected to be at every rehearsal and performance of the Mount Pleasant Band. In general, cases of illness (must have a valid doctor's excuse), death in the family or extreme family emergency are the only excuses that will be accepted for missing a rehearsal or performance. Conflicts with work, other school activities, church, and community activities along with routine dental or doctor appointments will generally be considered unexcused absences. Talk with Mr. Lee at least two days prior to rehearsal to get possible clearance. Communication is key!!!!!!

Under most circumstances, an absence from a performance without prior approval will result in dismissal from the organization with no refund of fees paid or at least a regulation to "alternate" status for the remainder of the season. A parent-teacher conference will be requested for any student who accumulates more than two absences from rehearsals.

Late arrivals and early dismissals must also be cleared **in advance with Mr. Lee only**. Corrective measures will be taken against any members who arrive late to rehearsals. Members will not be excused to leave after halftime performances at football games except in the event of illness or family emergency. Any student who leaves any event or rehearsal without proper dismissal will receive an unexcused absence. Two late arrivals will constitute an unexcused absence.

Each member should arrive **early** for all announced rehearsals and performances. Members should be in place, ready to go, before the call time, not at the call time.

Any requests for a planned absence, late arrival or early dismissal must be **submitted via our Google Form** (<https://forms.gle/LkKfNqnHedRiSHik8>) at least two days in advance to Mr. Lee. No staff member,

instructor, booster or parent can excuse a student for any reason. You may, in addition, contact the appropriate staff member or instructor for information purposes only.

If you receive an unexcused absence within the week, you will not perform in the next performance. If you receive two unexcused absences, you will be dismissed from the marching band without refund of fees.

It is essential that we have complete student and parental cooperation in this matter. Any absence, regardless of reason, creates a hardship for everyone.

QR CODE TO THE ABSENCE REQUEST FORM:



PHYSICAL FITNESS AND INJURY

All members of the Mount Pleasant Band Program will be put through a regimented physical fitness program. This program is intended to set them up for success while participating in this activity. They will be doing a variety of things to increase cardio endurance, strengthen core stability, and to gain strength. At no time are students permitted to “sit out” during these activities. The program that is set up is not out of reach for anyone and is even adaptable for different levels of fitness. It will also be expected that students perform physical fitness on their own time. The program that is created will not take a lot of time out of the students’ personal time or our rehearsals (20-30 minutes max). If you are against doing this, then no need to be a part of the marching band.

If students are injured for whatever reason, particular care will be made to ensure further damage is not done. Exercises will be adapted and possible work to rest ratios will be established to ensure that the student is taken care of. Legitimate medical conditions (with Doctor’s note) will be dealt with case by case.

Students who “sit out” during a rehearsal due to not taking care of themselves prior to rehearsal (hydrating, eating properly, exercising, etc.) will be sent home and will be given a non-excused absence from rehearsal. The staff and I will be able to tell if it is an actual medical issue or a “you are too lazy” issue. If your sitting out of any portion of rehearsal is due to the “you are too lazy” issue, that “sit-out constitutes an unexcused absence.

REQUIRED MINI-CAMP

Dates: June 3rd – 6th (Hornline) Times: 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
June 3rd – 6th (Percussion/Guard) Times: 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

To ensure we get everything we need to get done prior to school starting, we will be hosting a mini-camp at the front end of the summer. This camp will be utilized to get a good start on learning basic marching technique, colorguard skill sets, playing technique, as well as begin looking at the first chunk of the 2023 field production.

OPTIONAL SUMMER TUESDAY REHEARSALS

Dates: June 11th, June 18th, June 25th, July 8th, and July 16th

Times: 4:00 – 8:00 PM

Optional summer rehearsals begin the week of June 11th. Optional summer rehearsals occur on Tuesdays in four-hour segments. 50% of our time will be spent on music rehearsal while the other 50% of our time will be spent on marching basics and physical conditioning. Students should wear a white t-shirt, gym shorts (color optional), and tennis shoes with socks. Please do not wear flip-flops.

I hesitate to refer to them as “optional”. Allow me to explain. Many kids attend summer camps, or visit relatives, or go on Caribbean cruises, or play travel baseball, or teach/attend Vacation Bible School, or have summer jobs, or participate in any number of other opportunities that the summer break affords them. If a student is obligated to another structured activity, event, opportunity, or vacation, I encourage them to go to that other activity/event/etc. and enjoy themselves. However, if a student is in town, and otherwise unoccupied, I would like them to attend our summer rehearsal. Vacations are good. Responsibilities are good. However, if the choice is between watching Netflix while eating Doritos, or going to summer rehearsal, please choose to attend the summer rehearsal. Your time will be well-spent.

REQUIRED BAND CAMP

Dates: July 22nd – 26th, July 26th – 31st (Full Day Band Camp Days)

Aug 1st – 2nd, Aug 5th – 9th (Evening Band Camp Days)

These weeks enable the band to start off the year as an impressive organization and a refined performance ensemble. During the weeks of band camp, the band will learn everything pertaining to that year’s competition show. Specialists in each instrument classification are hired for the best possible instruction. These weeks of intensive training are worth more than two months of after school rehearsals. Utilization of summer band camps allows the band to rehearse three days per week during the school year rather than every day and Saturday during the school year. **Everyone is required to attend all sessions of camp.** During the first week there will be time available for each new student to be instructed in all the basics and fine points of marching and playing. This provides the opportunity for the new player to become an integral part of the performing group and develop good social relations.

Band Camp is a great deal of work but fun as well. Please plan your vacation prior to the start of band camp. **Students must go to camp in order to be in the field show.**

Please see the master schedule for specific times and sections involved

REGULAR REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

During the school year (starting August 13th), the wind and percussion members rehearse on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday afternoons from 4:00-7:00 PM, while the colorguard members rehearse on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 4:00-7:00 PM. There will also be some Saturday rehearsals scheduled. Rehearsals, like camps, are **not optional**. No athletic team member could expect to participate having never attended a practice or camp session. Our philosophy is the same, but unlike athletic teams, the band has no “backups” or “second string players”. Absences are a detriment to the entire organization. Students who make a commitment to marching band should be in attendance at 100% of all rehearsals and camps.

FOOTBALL GAMES

The marching band will perform at all home football games and a couple of away games. Since all football game transportation costs are paid for by the Mount Pleasant Band Boosters, it is at the discretion of Mr. Lee as to which away games that the band will attend. Typically, these games are within Cabarrus County. This year there are five (5) scheduled home games and two (2) scheduled away games that the band will attend. These

dates are on the calendar. Post-season dates are not available as they are dependent on regular season results. We should know something about post-season games in early November.

BAND COMPETITIONS

The band will perform at up to five (5) marching band competitions and two (2) exhibitions this fall. Participation in these events benefits the band in many ways. It provides motivation to strive for excellence, it raises standards of quality for performance, and it builds esprit de corps. It also offers an opportunity to gauge the band's progress and to gain positive recognition for our students, our school, and our community. Finally, it provides a positive experience as a reward for hard work. All band competitions are open to the public. The competition schedule (tentative based on my military obligation) is as follows:

September 14 th - Cabarrus Preview @ MPHS	September 28 th - Hickory Ridge HS
October 5 th - Cox Mill HS	October 19 th - Western Carolina University
October 26 th - Location TBD	November 2 nd - Location TBD

PARADES

The MP Band will perform in the Concord and Mount Pleasant Christmas Parades. Dates are as follows:
November 23rd - Concord Christmas Parade December 7th - Mount Pleasant Christmas Parade

PARTICIPATION IN OTHER EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Students who participate in the Marching Band should be aware of the time commitment involved with such an ensemble. Conflicts arise when students attempt to take on multiple extra-curricular activities during one semester. It is best to limit the number of extra-curricular activities in which you participate in order to do them well. We will do our best to work around conflicts, however, the best way to avoid conflicts is to not take on more than you can handle. If you have any questions concerning this issue, please speak to Mr. Lee.

THE BAND FEE

All students participating in the Marching Band will be required to pay a participation fee. The fee for all marching band members will be \$500.00. This fee will be put toward the cleaning of individual uniforms, band t-shirts, guard costumes and design, travel and transportation, music, drill and instruction. Student fees must pay for these components of our program as there are no budget allotments from MPHS or CCS for the marching band program. Fees can be paid in one lump sum or in increments dictated by the schedule set forth on the "Payment Coupon" section of this handbook. Fees can be paid by cash, check (made out to the Mount Pleasant Band Boosters), or through PayPal at <http://mpband.org/payments/> (**all PayPal fees or fees incurred by other online payment platforms are the responsibility of the individual utilizing those systems to pay their dues; The MP Band will not pay those fees for you**). In addition to the band fee, all students will be responsible for purchasing their own Under Armor, gloves and marching shoes (gloves and shoes purchased through the band). Most students will use the same shoes and Under Armor all four years while socks and gloves will need to be replaced yearly.

The \$200 NON-REFUNDABLE deposit due Thursday, June 6th, 2024. All fees must be paid in full by August 2nd, 2024. If a student drops out prior to band camp, no refunds of money paid to that point will be given as we encumber these funds to order necessary materials. Students who drop out prior to band camp will still owe up to what fees were due prior to the point they dropped out. If a student decides to drop out after the official start of band camp (July 22nd), all band fees (\$500) will still be owed by that student and their family due to items already having been purchased with that student's participation in mind. Request to drop out must be submitted to Mr. Lee at keith.lee@cabarrus.k12.nc.us. The date the e-mail is received will be what is utilized to determine what the student still owes in fees to the point of dropping out. All delinquent fees will be turned in to the main office of the school and held against the student until fully paid. If you require additional time, please contact

the Band Director, Band Booster President or Treasurer as soon as possible. Fundraising money earned during the summer may be applied to the commitment fee.

Multiple Child Discount – Families who have multiple children currently in the marching band qualify for a multiple child discount. The oldest child will be \$500. Each additional child is \$400 per child (\$100 discount per child).

QR CODES TO THE VARIOUS PAYMENT PLATFORMS USED BY THE MP BAND



PAYPAL



SQUARE



VENMO

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NATIONAL MEMORIAL DAY PARADE IN WASHINGTON, D.C. (MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND, MAY 2025)

The Mount Pleasant Marching Band has been invited to participate in the National Memorial Day Parade in Washington, D.C. By being a member of the Mount Pleasant Marching Band, that qualifies you to be able to participate in this huge honor. There will be many great experiences had on this trip and I know that there will be lots of lasting memories made by participating in this event. We are currently working on the details of this trip and will be able to share this information with you very soon. Currently, we are awaiting information concerning graduation ceremonies next year. This will dictate to us what day we leave to participate in this event.

Your participation in this event is **NOT** required, but we would love to have as many of our members be able to participate in this as we can. Because this is an extra event, there will be a separate cost for band members to participate in this event. The cost of this trip will be dictated by many a couple factors:

- How many days/nights we are in Washington D.C.
- How many members we can get to participate in this event.

We anticipate the cost of this trip being between \$750 to \$1000 (depending on the factors mentioned above). We will work to make this trip as cost effective as possible while ensuring we create a great experience for everyone.

For us to be able to make this trip happen, we will need a commitment from enough members to fill up at least one motorcoach (at least 50 people). Opportunities for family members will be made available based on amount of band members we get to participate in this event. To begin working to finalize details, if you are interested in participating in this event, please answer the question in the Marching Band Commitment Form (LINK BELOW) notating your interest. We need to know this information ASAP in order to know if we can make this trip happen or not.

SHOES, SOCKS, GLOVES, and UNDER ARMOR for BAND UNIFORMS

There are four pieces of the uniform that are not provided by the school and those are shoes, socks, gloves and Under Armour style undergarments/shirts. The students will order their shoes and gloves by August 1st during our evening rehearsal. Returning marching band members may use their shoes from the previous season, but everyone (minus percussionists and color guard members) must order at least two pairs of black gloves and two

pairs of white gloves for performance use. Percussionists do not wear gloves, and color guard members will order different weightlifting style gloves. Each band member (minus color guard) is also required to purchase Under Armour to wear under their uniform. Under Armour is made of spandex and serves as the undergarments while wearing the uniform. Our uniforms themselves are made from a polyester/spandex material and are more form-fitting than older wool uniforms. Under Armour prevents unnecessary sweat damage to the uniforms and also helps to keep the students cool in the summer and warm in the winter. Students should purchase at least one Under Armour top and one bottom. Black is the preferred color. Do not purchase Under Armour of any other color. Under Armour and other generic versions can be found at Wal-Mart, Target, Kmart, and any sports equipment store. color guard members will purchase specifically prescribed body tights as the undergarments for their uniform.

BAND UNIFORM RESPONSIBILITIES

The band uniforms are very expensive and require appropriate care. You will be assigned a specific uniform at the beginning of the year, and it is your responsibility to return that same uniform at the end of every performance in good condition. Failure to do so will result in a damage or replacement charge for the ENTIRE uniform. The purchase of black marching shoes, black socks (these should be full length – not the lower athletic style!), black Under Armour style undergarments, and additional pairs of gloves will be the responsibility of the individual student. Guard shoes and appropriate accessories as assigned for auxiliary wear are also the student's responsibility. All colorguard uniforms and band uniforms will be sent together to the dry cleaners when deemed necessary by the Director. The cost of cleaning the uniforms is included in the marching band fee.

Wearing the Uniform

Your band uniform should be worn with pride. This means that every band member wears all uniform parts appropriately at all times. All buttons are to be buttoned, jackets zipped, all collars worn in the manner designed, and hats worn flat on top of the head. No jewelry, including rings, watches, visible necklaces, earrings or other facial piercing, is ever allowed while wearing the uniform. When the Director deems appropriate, members will be allowed to remove shakos, and sometimes the jacket. This decision will be made by the Director, not by students or parents.

When wearing the uniform, the following guidelines should be used:

1. The black Under Armour spandex style shirt, black spandex undergarments, and black socks must be worn under the band uniform. If a student fails to wear these items under the uniform, under no circumstances will he or she be allowed to remove any part of the uniform. Long sleeve Under Armour spandex style shirts are permitted, and encouraged, in colder weather.
2. Socks must be black, not white, or any other color. Exceptions will apply to the color guard, depending on their uniform needs. Socks should be long (calf-length), and not short athletic socks.
3. All hair that is below the collar must be concealed in the shako so that it does not fall out or come down. Pin it up, and/or spray it. Ladies, take heed to this rule! Expensive hairstyles are ruined when the shako goes on. It's a band uniform, not a beauty contest. Don't ask for exceptions or ask for allowances to this rule. Hair styles for all guard members will be as uniform as possible, and the specific style will be determined by the guard instructors.
4. No student will be permitted in the uniform room. Uniforms remain at school and must be checked out from a parent and checked back in at the conclusion of the event. Under no circumstances should the uniform ever be "wadded up" and thrown around. All uniforms must be properly hung on the hangers and returned to the uniform room before any student will be allowed to leave.
5. Label all shoes, gloves, t-shirt, and any other items with your name using a permanent marker. DO NOT mark on the uniform or any of the uniform accessories. Remember, love your fellow band members, but don't trust them to remember what is theirs and what is yours. Lost or stolen items are not the responsibility of the Director.

6. Marching band uniforms for the first several games will be black athletic shorts, Band T-shirt, black socks, and tennis shoes (preferably a solid, dark color).
7. Woodwind players should cut off the entire tip of the glove to help cover the keys of the instruments.
8. No eating or drinking (with the exception of water) is permitted while in uniform. Students are feed prior to games and contest (see “Pre-Game/Competition Meals” section of this handbook for more details).
9. Mount Pleasant Band members will display the highest degree of class while in the uniform. We will conduct ourselves as young ladies and gentlemen, **NO MATTER WHAT THE OTHER BANDS OR THEIR FANS MAY DO!** While in uniform you are clearly identified as belonging to our group, so you bring the entire group shame when you act inappropriately. As a general rule, remember that there will be no profanity, rude language or gestures, excessive displays of affection, displays of poor attitude, or use or possession of alcohol, tobacco products, or controlled substances.

TRAVEL INFORMATION

All band students are expected to travel with the entire band unless otherwise specified by the Director. Every student is expected to ride with the band from Mount Pleasant to any performance. On certain occasions, students may travel from the event with a parent. Students may travel with PARENTS/GUARDIANS ONLY! No student will be allowed to travel with brothers, sisters, other family members, neighbors, etc. If parents are not physically present to drive their child, the student MUST return to the school with the band. This is for accountability concerns, and the policy will NOT be flexible. A signed note from a parent is NOT ACCEPTABLE; the parent MUST be present before the child will be released. In addition, the travel release form must be completely filled out, signed by the parent, and given to the chaperone responsible for attendance on the bus which the band member was riding.

When Traveling in Large Groups:

1. Students will be assigned to buses by the Director or parent chaperones. This decision is made in the best interest of the program, so please do not ask to change your bus.
2. Students will be dismissed as a group to board the buses.
3. Students should keep the noise level at a minimum on the bus and should keep all body parts and other objects inside the bus at all times. Students will remain seated in the seat during the trip. This means that you must SIT in the chair, not turn around on your knees facing the opposite directions. This request is for your own safety.
4. Chaperones will be treated with the utmost respect at all times. Their authority is an extension of the Director’s authority. When they stand to give instructions, students will stop all talking and listen carefully for directions. Chaperones are instructed to report any absences and/or behavior problems to the Director. Remember, chaperones donate their time to benefit our organization, and they will be treated with respect at all times!
5. All students must sign in when boarding the bus and must check their names off the list when they re-board the bus after a performance.
6. No radios/phones/tablets, etc. without headphones will be permitted on the bus.
7. No student should get off the bus until he or she is told to do so.
8. After getting off the bus, students should get their instrument from the equipment line, return the cases, and then wait patiently and quietly for instructions to go to the warm-up area.
9. The possession of or consumption of alcoholic beverages and/or the use of tobacco products, illegal drugs, or any other controlled substance are strictly prohibited. Use of these will be referred to school administration and may be turned over to local law enforcement for processing. In addition, use or possession of these substances will result in immediate dismissal from the Mount Pleasant High School Band program. **PARENTS: PLEASE UNDERSTAND THAT IF YOUR CHILD IS FOUND TO HAVE POSSESSION OF THESE SUBSTANCES, OR TO HAVE CONSUMED THEM, THEY WILL BE IMMEDIATELY SENT HOME AT YOUR EXPENSE.**

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY – FOOTBALL GAMES

The band will play for all home football games and two away games during the year. In the event of inclement weather, Mr. Lee will make the decision on what we will wear and if we will perform. Rain is a huge problem for marching bands. It damages the uniforms because of mud, can lead to personal injury while maneuvering on a wet surface, damages flag silks and props, and causes damage to corks, pads, and other parts of personal instruments. Therefore, intelligent discretion will be used in determining whether or not it is in the band's best interest to perform for any function while it is raining. However, each band member should always assume that we will perform unless told otherwise. Listed below are the procedures that we will follow in the event of inclement weather:

- At Home Games: We will make every effort to perform for pre-game. If weather is not permissible, we will wait in the band room until half time. If the rain has stopped, we will perform in shorts or jeans and the band shirt. If the rain has not stopped by the half, the band will be dismissed and allowed to leave.
- At Away Games: The band will not travel if it is raining, and it looks as it will continue to do so. A decision will be made from the band room before the scheduled call time. Students should check the MP Marching Band's BAND app page for updates to make sure that we are going or should arrive at the specified call time for a final decision. Do NOT assume that we are not going.
- During A Game: The band will be given a poncho, and we will try to remain at the game if it is simply a light rain or drizzle. In the event of heavy rain, the band will immediately leave the stadium. Once inside the building, instruments and cases will be dried before storing them in the cases over the weekend. Uniforms will be draped over the chairs and allowed to dry before they are put in bags and stored in the uniform room.

PLEASE NOTE: The band will NEVER perform if it is storming. Assuming the presence of threatening lightening or potentially dangerous weather, there will be nothing to perform for anyway. If lightening is present and threatening, the band will leave the stands IMMEDIATELY, and we will assess the situation from the safety of the bus or the band room.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY – CONTESTS

We will make every attempt to participate in a contest since it is a major fundraiser for the bands that host them. Sometimes, weather plays havoc. Just like Away Football Games, we will not travel if it is raining and looks like it will not let up. We will travel if the contest that is being conducted is planning to go on and it looks like the weather will let up. Posts via the MP Marching Band's BAND App page will be made with information in the event this is an issue.

PRE-GAME/COMPETITION MEALS

A pre-performance meal will always be served to the band students prior to each football game and competition. This food is prepared by the parents and provided in the cafeteria at 5:00 PM on Friday nights and at designated times on Saturdays of competition dates. Times are subject to change based on performance times. Students will not be permitted to eat during football games or while in "performance mode" for contests. Only circumstance where this would be permitted is if food is required for medical reasons (diabetes, etc.).

GENERAL MP BAND RULES & REGULATIONS

1. Attendance at all rehearsals and performances is mandatory.
2. Excessive tardies or absences will cause you to lose your spot within the band without a refund.
3. If you are well enough to attend school, you are well enough to attend the rehearsal/game/competition.
4. Club meetings, detention, and after school jobs are not considered excused absences or tardies.
5. Should the need for an emergency absence occur, a parent must contact Mr. Lee at keith.lee@cabarrus.k12.nc.us.
6. All band members are expected to give 100% effort during all rehearsals and performances.

7. All band members are to treat the band instructional staff with respect at all times.
8. All band members are to treat the band booster parents with respect at all times.
9. Negative attitudes and abusive language will not be tolerated.
10. Students are expected to take excellent care of their instruments and all band-owned equipment.
11. All students should arrive at least ten minutes before call time in order to be on time.
12. Bring all materials to every rehearsal (notebook, coordinate sheets, music, pencil, water bottle, shoes).
13. Students may not drive off of campus during rehearsals.
14. Respect for your peers is expected at all times.
15. All students will wear white shirts (t-shirts, tanks, sweats, etc.) to every rehearsal.
16. No drinks on the field other than water.
17. No gum in rehearsals or in the band room.
18. Proper decorum is expected during all award ceremonies.
19. All students will wear the MP Band Uniform correctly and with pride.
20. We are a professional performing ensemble with extremely high standards. Get on board.

REQUIRED MATERIALS FOR CAMPS AND REHEARSALS

1. Three-Ring Binder Notebook with 5 dividers and plenty of clear, plastic page protector sheets for your music and drill charts.
2. Water Bottle- Students need a water bottle every day of band camp and every regular rehearsal.
3. Sunscreen, Hat, and Lip Balm
4. Tennis Shoes and Socks (no flip flops in rehearsal)
5. White T-Shirts for every rehearsal.
6. Pencil
7. A black hand-towel to put their instrument on when it is on the ground.

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. 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 brass players should purchase valve oil (or slide oil), and tuning slide cream.
2. 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!
3. 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!**
4. All single reed players are required to have a Rovner ligature, or the equivalent.
5. 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.

SCHOOL OWNED EQUIPMENT

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.

MUSIC LIBRARY POLICIES

1. Only the Director, drum majors, or 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 your section leader of your need for music BEFORE or AFTER rehearsal or class. A 24-hour notice would be appreciated. The section leader will then get with the music librarian to get the necessary copies.
3. If you fail to receive a particular piece when the music is distributed, it is your responsibility to inform your section leader of this, who will get with the librarian immediately.
4. Music notebooks 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 and physical "reminders." 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.

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

Students must be able to pass off their music and have their dot books completed in a timely manner. All students will be required to do a variety of playing assessments through their Cut Time accounts and through their SmartMusic accounts. Memorization of the tunes should be done by the following timeframe:

- Opener – Prior to Band Camp
- Ballad (Second Tune) – By the End of Band Camp
- Third Tune – By the end of August

Memorization of the tunes will be tested and assessed.

All music and dot books will be to standard and checked on a regular basis. Music must have drill and body movements/counts written in. Dot books must be maintained with all the required information (music chunks, body movements, etc.).

Any infraction of disrespect to any part of the organization will result in disciplinary action up to immediate removal from the organization without any refund of fees. You will still be responsible for any fees that you owe up to the point which you are removed.

We are only as strong as our weakest member!

MARCHING BAND STUDENT LEADERSHIP

The band does have student leadership that will be selected to help in a variety of functions within the band.

Drum Major: The drum major will be the direct link between all band students, the adult staff, and the director as well as the booster club. The drum major will call and preside over meetings of the other student leaders as needed. The drum major is the primary leader of the marching band second only to the director and any other adult staff. The drum major will also be the field conductor of the marching band ensemble.

The Leadership Team: The student leaders will handle matters of administration, teach marching sectionals, maintain the practice field and in the classroom, and ensure see that band policy is carried out. The Student Leaders will also be responsible for attendance, equipment inventory, loading of equipment for all trips and maintaining all school owned instruments and equipment. They are also responsible for ensuring that the members of their sections are successful, meaning they may be tasked to teach a variety of schools, do remedial work with their sections or a select student, etc. There may be more than one student leader in each section or none at all.

GENERAL INFORMATION

COMMUNICATION PLATFORM

It is my goal and my duty to keep everyone in this organization fully informed at all times. We rely heavily on usage of the MP Marching Band's BAND app page, e-mails, and ParentSquare. It is requested that all band members and their parents/guardians ensure that they have gained access to the MP Marching Band's BAND app page and need to ensure we have an e-mail address on file that is utilized on a regular basis. We will collect e-mail addresses through the Commitment Forms that all members must complete. To register for the MP Marching Band's BAND app page, please go to <https://band.us/n/abad00z2b7I5I>.

QR CODE TO REGISTER FOR THE MP MARCHING BAND'S BAND APP PAGE



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.

PREVIEW

The Mount Pleasant Band hosts the Cabarrus County Preview of Bands yearly. "Preview" is a countywide marching band exhibition show at MPHS that helps to kickoff the competitive marching band season. This event will be held on Saturday, September 14th. Not only will we perform at this event, but we also run this event. It serves a major fundraiser for our band. We will need all hands on deck to ensure this event runs smoothly.

STUDENT COMMITMENT FORMS

This form secures your spot in this ensemble. By signing this, the student and the parents/guardians of the student are obligating themselves to this ensemble for the upcoming season. This form is important because we have to get our show designers personnel numbers very soon for drill, music, etc. This form can be found at <https://forms.gle/7BrsnFY3YGCQyrxHA>. Please read it carefully. **Please complete this form by May 17th.*

QR CODE TO COMPLETE THE COMMITMENT FORM



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. ****Please return this form by August 1st.***

STUDENT PERMISSION AND RELEASE FORM

A student permission and release forms are located on the back of the student medical form. Please read carefully and sign in all areas requested. ****Please return this form by August 1st.***

SCHEDULE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

Once you and your child have read the entire rehearsal and performance schedule, there is a form where you will acknowledge that you have read the schedule, understand the policies for attendance, and that your child will abide by the schedule for the 2024 marching season. 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.

SCHEDULE 2024

Please mark all of these dates on your calendar. All rehearsal and performance dates are mandatory unless notated otherwise.

PLEASE NOTE: This schedule is about a 90% product currently. There will be a few changes (additions, deletions, etc.), but this will give you a good idea. By the time we have our parent/member meeting in May, we will have a full picture of the season.

SPRING AND SUMMER SCHEDULE

Starting March 13	Leadership Training (Every Wednesday Through April 17 th)	2:30 PM – 5:00 PM
April 24-26	Leadership Team Auditions	2:30 PM – 5:00 PM
May 6-9	Rookie Camp	4:00 PM – 6:00 PM
May 6-9	Colorguard Pre-Audition Camps	Times TBD
May 9	Member/Parent Meeting	6:00 PM
May 13-14	Colorguard Auditions	Times TBD
June 3-6	Mini Camp (Hornline)	8:00 AM – 12:00 PM
June 3-6	Mini Camp (Percussion/Guard)	4:00 PM – 8:00 PM
June 11	Summer Rehearsal @ MPHS (All; optional)	4:00 PM – 8:00 PM
June 18	Summer Rehearsal @ MPHS (All; optional)	4:00 PM – 8:00 PM
June 25	Summer Rehearsal @ MPHS (All; optional)	4:00 PM – 8:00 PM
July 7-11	Summer Symposium @ WCU (Optional)	More Info to Come....
July 9	Summer Rehearsal @ MPHS (All; optional)	4:00 PM – 8:00 PM
July 16	Summer Rehearsal @ MPHS (All; optional)	4:00 PM – 8:00 PM
July 17-July 19	Leadership Prep Days @ MPHS (Leadership Members)	9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
July 22-July 26	Full Day Marching Band Camp for all band members	8:00 AM – 8:00 PM*
July 29-July 31	Full Day Marching Band Camp for all band members	8:00 AM – 8:00 PM*
Aug 1-2	Evening Marching Band Camp for all band members	3:00 PM – 8:00 PM**
Aug 1	Parent Information Meeting and Chaperone Training	6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Aug 5-9	Evening Marching Band Camp for all band members	3:00 PM – 8:00 PM**
	Parent Performance (Aug 9; Time TBD)	
	Cook-Out (Aug 9; Time TBD)	

**During Full Day Band Camp, students must bring their lunch, but may leave campus for dinner*

****Evening Band Camp Days, students may bring a snack with them. PLEASE NOTE: THIS SCHEDULE WILL CHANGE ONCE WE KNOW WHEN OPEN HOUSE IS!!!**

REHEARSAL & PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE (SEE NOTE ABOVE)

Aug 13	1 st Day of School for Students	7:15 AM – 2:15 PM
Aug 13	Regular Weekly Rehearsals Begin Hornline/Percussion: Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays Guard: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays	4:00 PM – 7:00 PM
Aug 17	Saturday Rehearsal @ MPHS	8:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Aug 24	Saturday Rehearsal @ MPHS	8:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Aug 30	Football Game @ Concord HS	Call Time: 4:00 PM
Sep 2	Labor Day	No School. No Rehearsals.
Sep 6	Football Game @ MPHS (vs Central Cabarrus)	Call Time: 4:00 PM
Sep 7	Saturday Rehearsal @ MPHS	8:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Sep 13	Football Game @ MPHS (vs Northwest Cabarrus)	Call Time: 4:00 PM
Sep 13	Preview Set-Up	AFTER FOOTBALL GAME
Sep 14	Cabarrus County Band Preview	All Day Event
Sep 20	Football Game @ MPHS (vs West Stanly)	Call Time: 4:00 PM

HOMECOMING		
Sep 21	Saturday Rehearsal @ MPHS	8:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Sep 27	Contest Prep Rehearsal	4:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Sep 28	Contest (HICKORY RIDGE HS)	All Day Event
Oct 4	Contest Prep Rehearsal	4:00 PM – 8:00 PM
	Friends and Family Event	
Oct 5	Contest (COX MILL HS)	All Day Event
Oct 11	Football Game @ MPHS (vs Union Academy)	Call Time: 4:00 PM
Oct 14	Teacher Workday	No School. No Rehearsals.
Oct 15-17	Rehearsal for ALL MEMBERS WCU PREP	4:00 PM – 7:00 PM
Oct 18	Football Game @ MPHS (vs Albemarle)	Call Time: 4:00 PM
	SENIOR NIGHT	
Oct 19	Contest (WCU Tournament of Champions)	All Day Event
Sep 25	Contest Prep Rehearsal	4:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Oct 26	Contest (TBD)	All Day Event
Nov 1	Football Game @ Jay M. Robinson HS	Call Time: 4:00 PM
Nov 2	Contest (TBD)	All Day Event
Nov 5	Parade Rehearsal	4:00 PM – 6:00 PM
Nov 7	Parade Rehearsal	4:00 PM – 6:00 PM
Nov 12	Parade Rehearsal	4:00 PM – 6:00 PM
Nov 14	Parade Rehearsal	4:00 PM – 6:00 PM
Nov 19	Parade Rehearsal	4:00 PM – 6:00 PM
Nov 21	Parade Rehearsal	4:00 PM – 6:00 PM
Nov 23	Concord Christmas Parade	All Day Event
Dec 5	Parade Rehearsal	4:00 PM – 6:00 PM
Dec 7	Mount Pleasant Parade	All Day Event



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

EMERGENCY MEDICAL INFORMATION & PERMISSION FORM 2024-2025

(Student's Last Name) (First Name) (Middle Name)

(Grade) (Birth date) (Instrument or Section)

(Student's Home Address) (City, Zip) (Home Phone) (Email address)

(Father/Guardian Name) (Place of Business/Work) (Work Phone) (Email address)

(Mother/Guardian Name) (Place of Business/Work) (Work Phone) (Email address)

IN CASE OF ILLNESS OR EMERGENCY, THE FOLLOWING PERSON MAY BE CONTACTED IF THE PARENTS/GUARDIANS CANNOT BE LOCATED:

(Name of Friend/Neighbor) (Phone Number) (Relationship to Student)

List any Medications that your son/daughter will need to take: _____

List any health problems regarding your son/daughter that we need to be aware of: _____

Is your son/daughter under any medical treatment presently? yes no. If yes, please list reason: _____

I, _____, the parent of _____,

have insurance coverage, which will accept responsibility should an accident or health problem arise.

Insurance Information (Company): _____ Policy #: _____

Family Physician: _____ Phone #: _____

RELEASE FORM

I understand that there will be adequate adult supervision on all outings involving the Mount Pleasant Band. In the event that my child suffers any illness or accident requiring emergency medical aid, I hereby authorize Mr. Lee, or his designee, to acquire any necessary medical treatment for my child, understanding that Mr. Lee, or his designee, will contact me at the earliest possible moment. I also give permission for my child to travel with the band. By signing, I attest that I will not hold Mr. Lee, Mount Pleasant High School, Cabarrus County Schools, or any Chaperones responsible for any accidents.

This signature will serve as my acknowledgement of my understanding of the information listed above and will allow Mr. Lee or his designee to seek medical assistance for my child should a time for such assistance ever occur.

Parent Signature: _____

Date _____

Mount Pleasant High School Band Permission for Field Trips 2024-2025

Date: August 2nd, 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians:

In order for your son/daughter to be allowed to participate in off-campus, we must have the following agreement signed by a parent/guardian giving permission. This permission form is blanket permission for the entire 2024-2025 school year.

Sincerely,

_____, Band Director

Destination: All Football Games (home and away), Competitions, and Parades

Mode of travel: Activity Bus or Chartered Bus

This is to certify that I/we the parent/parents/guardian of (name of student) _____ do hereby grant permission for him/her to attend all football games (home and away) and all parades and understand that all CCS, MPHS and Mount Pleasant Band rules and policies apply.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Mount Pleasant Band Attendance and Schedule Acknowledgement Form 2024-2025

We, the parent(s)/guardian of _____ have carefully reviewed the Mount Pleasant Band Attendance Policy and the Mount Pleasant Band Schedule for 2024-2025. We have marked our personal calendar and we have cleared all rehearsal and performance dates with our child's employer or faculty advisors for additional activities. We have no date conflicts.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Mount Pleasant Band Member Pledge 2024-2025

As a member of the Mount Pleasant Band, I understand that is a privilege that requires commitment and carries with it responsibilities. I have read and understand the expectations for all Mount Pleasant. As a member of this ensemble, I understand that I personally contribute to the overall success of the ensemble. As such, I will abide by the following terms of this contract:

- I will behave in a way that will bring respect to me, my teachers, my instructors and my school.
- I will not use foul language or inappropriate gestures, or bully other students.
- I will learn and follow the disciplinary components required of a strong and meaningful musical performance.
- I will learn and apply all technique as it pertains to musical performance, marching, and ensemble effect.
- I will listen to and respect the decisions of all administrators, teachers, instructors, and adjudicators.
- I will never use the band program as an excuse for not completing an assignment for another class.
- I will behave in a respectful manner in all of my classes, both music related, and non-music related.
- I will always give 100% to every rehearsal, run-through, and performance and demonstrate esprit de corps at all times.

Signature of MP Band Member _____ Date _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____ Date _____

2024 Marching Band Payment Schedule and Payment Coupons

In order to prevent holes on the field and also to ascertain a correct headcount at an early date, the Mount Pleasant Band has a payment schedule for band fees which will begin with a non-refundable commitment deposit of \$200.00. Security is the primary reason for this process. We must prevent drop out, and ensure that the Band Boosters will have enough money in their checking account to cover the purchase of our music, drill, visual book, etc. The payment deadline dates are as follows:

Thursday, June 6th, 2024

1st payment of \$200.00 is due. (non-refundable)

Monday, July 1st, 2024

2nd payment of \$150.00 is due.

Friday, August 2nd, 2024

3rd payment of \$150.00 is due. \$50 for those that qualify multiple child Discount (Oldest child \$500; additional children \$400 per child).

Each cash or check payment should be accompanied by its corresponding payment coupon. Please fill out all information on the coupon every time you make a cash or check payment. If you choose to pay your child's band fee in one lump sum on the first payment date, please write this on your payment coupon. Credit card payments can also be made, via PayPal, on the band website (www.mpband.org) under the "band payments" tab. Additional payment arrangements can be made with Mr. Lee, if necessary. If you have questions, please contact Mr. Lee at 704-267-6707, or at keith.lee@cabarrus.k12.nc.us.

QR CODES TO THE VARIOUS PAYMENT PLATFORMS USED BY THE MP BAND



PAYPAL



SQUARE



VENMO

REMINDER: All fees incurred by utilizing online payment platforms are the responsibility of the individual using those systems to pay their dues; The MP Band will not pay those fees for you.

Marching Band Payment Coupons
(use if turning money in or using credit from student account)

3rd Payment (Due Friday, August 2nd, 2024)

Student Name: _____ Payment Amount: **\$150.00 / \$50 (see above)**

Student Instrument: _____ Circle Grade Level: **7th 8th 9th 10th 11th 12th**

Student Signature: _____ Parent Signature _____

Payment Type (please circle): Check Cash Credit from Student Account

2nd Payment (Monday, July 1st, 2024)

Student Name: _____ Payment Amount: **\$150.00**

Student Instrument: _____ Circle Grade Level: **7th 8th 9th 10th 11th 12th**

Student Signature: _____ Parent Signature _____

Payment Type (please circle): Check Cash Credit from Student Account

Non-Refundable Commitment Deposit /1st Payment (Due Thursday, June 6th, 2024)

Student Name: _____ Payment Amount: **\$200.00**

Student Instrument: _____ Circle Grade Level: **7th 8th 9th 10th 11th 12th**

Student Signature: _____ Parent Signature _____

Payment Type (please circle): Check Cash Credit from Student Account