

Madison County High School Band

TO: Madison County Marching Band Members and Parents
FROM: Justin Bell, Director
RE: 2018 BAND CAMP

Greetings, and welcome to the 2018 Madison County High School Marching Band!

A Year of Excellence... and TRADITION. I congratulate you on your membership in the 2018-2019 edition of the MCHS Marching Band, and trust that you share my excitement for the upcoming year! I know that the band's tradition of hard work, dedication, and exciting performance will continue unabated.

It takes so many people to maintain a successful band program, and with the continued support of our Administration, Band Boosters, and Parents, and the exceptional leadership of our talented staff, I am confident that this will be another fantastic year for our students! Rest assured that we will seek not only to maintain the tradition of high-quality music education that has long been a characteristic of our district, but will strive to raise the band to new musical heights. This is, and always has been, **YOUR band**, and I am very proud to be your Director.

As always, we expect the highest standards of **respect, professionalism, and personal accountability**, in regard to students, parents, staff, and facilities.

This letter deals with important band camp information, policies, and procedures. Please read carefully!

BAND CAMP SCHEDULE:

Band camp this year will occur during Monday, July 16th – Friday, July 27th; *everyone* is required to attend each day (Monday – Friday) of the band camp for these two weeks. **IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT STUDENTS AND PARENTS DO NOT SCHEDULE CONFLICTING EVENTS DURING THIS TIME (e.g., work, doctor appointments, vacations, etc.).**

Note: Compromises and concessions are made to accommodate athletic schedules and try-outs during band camp. Please note that these compromises are made on both ends (the band end and the athletic end.) Please inform Mr. Bell directly with any athletic conflicts.

WHAT DO I NEED TO BRING?

- **WATER!!!**

- Instrument (in good playing condition)

- **Instrument Lyre and Flip Folder** - REQUIRED. **All students must have a flip folder.**

These will be available for purchase at uniform fittings, and can also be obtained at most music stores.

- Sunscreen... protecting yourself from the sun is *not optional!* Sunburns should be avoided if at all possible so please plan ahead.

- **Tennis shoes** and socks. *Absolutely NO sandals or flip-flops for marching rehearsals...*

Students without proper footwear will be benched until appropriate shoes are acquired. (Bringing extra socks is highly recommended because dew during morning rehearsals can cause socks to get wet, and you will want to march with dry feet!)

- A Pencil

- Coolers, drinks, and/or snacks for breaks (optional)

- An open mind and a Positive Attitude

- ENERGY and ENTHUSIASM!

WHAT SHOULD I WEAR?

1. Step One: Check the Weather

2. Step Two: Dress for the weather ☺

3. Bring Rain Gear if needed

4. Socks and Tennis Shoes. **Sandals, flip-flops, open-toed shoes, etc. are not permitted during marching rehearsals. They will give you nasty blisters, cause you to march with poor technique, and will lead to injury!**

5. A smile backed by a positive attitude

6. Sunscreen and possibly Bug Spray

7. Sunglasses and a Hat

8. **Please wear light-colored clothing! Dark colors absorb more heat, which cause you to get hotter. Lighter colors will help keep you cooler!**

9. Shorts are recommended as long as they are not too short. (Think: Dress Code!)

GENERAL RULES

The Madison County High School Band runs on tradition and pride. We operate on the idea that everyone will do his/her best at all times. *Proper* social interaction is encouraged and expected.

Please be a contributor to our positive reputation!

In order to have a safe and successful year, we will follow a set of rules and regulations. *Please refer to the Band Handbook for greater detail.*

- No Weapons
- **NO HAZING** of any kind
- No Harassment of any kind
- No Physical Abuse of any kind
- **It must be understood that any violator(s) would face immediate dismissal from camp.**
- Abusive language will not be tolerated.
- There is to be no “horseplay” due to the accident-prone nature of the activity.
- Directors, staff members, and students will all be responsible for cleaning up after themselves, which includes on the field, in the bandroom, or wherever else we are present. Leaders, we will count

on you to make sure this is done to satisfaction. We all must work together to take care of our facilities as well as leave a respectable reputation at other various venues!

➤ **BE ON TIME!** To be on time is to arrive 10 minutes before the scheduled rehearsal time or call time for a performance. Remember, to be early is to be on time, to be on time is to be late, and to be late is to be left behind!

➤ ***Please make sure you are picked up at the designated time after rehearsals/activities!!!!***

➤ **Be responsible.** Take care of your music, your instrument, your drill charts, and each other; it's the beauty of being in a band. ***If Music or Drill charts are misplaced, it will be the responsibility of the student to contact the student leader for a new copy. Each replacement copy will result in financial compensation!***

These rules and regulations are in everyone's best interest, and we must work together to see that they are followed!

ATTENDANCE

By virtue of being a member of the Madison County High School Band, you have placed upon yourself an obligation, not only to yourself, but to the entire organization. Attendance at all rehearsals is **mandatory**. There are few excused absences, and these should be cleared with the directors in advance. *See Band Handbook for Absence Request Forms.* Parents and students, please understand that in order to plan effectively and continue to give credibility to instrumental music, **all students must be in attendance at all times.** Plan your schedule!

PARTICIPATION FEE

Note: **The band fee is \$120, and there is no cap for students involved in multiple activities.** Please take time to look over the enclosed Participation Fee Form, included for your convenience.

MEDICAL FORMS

Enclosed you will find several Medical Forms. We carry these forms wherever we go throughout the school year. Students *must* have these forms filled out and signed by a parent or legal guardian.

These forms must be turned in when you pick up your uniform.

UNIFORMS

Please find the Uniform Committee Letter and Fitting Schedule enclosed. Proper care, maintenance, and cleaning of uniforms are essential. ***Please take care of your uniform!***

Please take time to thank the wonderful volunteers that donate their time so freely to ensure the quality look and success of our band.

Ways to Stay Informed

This year we will be using the Remind app to stay in contact and up to date. This is a system that allows me to send out mass texts to the entire band and allows you to message me back. It is very important that everyone signs up for these texts alerts. I will use them to keep everyone up to date.

Text to the number: 81010

In the message type: @mcband2017

We will also have a new Facebook page in the very near future.

Band Boosters

The life blood of all good band programs is a healthy, functioning booster program. The boosters play many vital roles in the band program. We need parents to run concessions, fit uniforms, drive the band truck, work in concessions, run fundraisers, build props, be the pit crew at games and contests, and many other vital needs. It is important that every parent, grandparent, family member, and other guardians are a part of this group. We will be talking about this much more in the coming weeks.

CHECKLIST – These must be brought and collected at the uniform fitting

- \$120 Band Camp Fee** (if you paid or earned this money already, this does not apply to you!)
- Emergency Medical Authorization Form** (*white*)
- Prescription Medication Authorization Form** (*blue*)
- BAND HANDBOOK Contract / Transportation Form** (*white*)
- Participation Fee and Form** (separate check payable to MCHS) (*green*)
- Band Boosters Volunteer Form**

Thank you all for your continued involvement in, and support of, the Madison County High School Band Program! I feel privileged to serve as your Director. Go Cowboys!

Sincerely,

Mr. Justin Bell

Band Director