

# MEADE COUNTY GREENWAVE MARCHING BAND HANDBOOK



## Welcome

Dear MCHS Band/Color Guard Members, Parents, and Guardians,

We are excited that you are joining the award-winning Meade County Greenwave Marching Band! We are coming off back-to-back successful seasons! As a productive member of the Marching Greenwaves, you will meet new people, learn teamwork, attend band camp, participate in marching band contests and football games, and go on band trips.

This Handbook is to be used as your guide for the 2024 Marching Season and will provide you with much information concerning the happenings of the Marching Greenwaves. In it, you will find information regarding:

- Expectations
- Camps
- Rehearsals and Performances Dates
- Attendance Policies
- Band Fees
- Trips
- Uniforms
- Booster Organization
- Calendar

Please make sure to check our website, **[www.meadebands.org](http://www.meadebands.org)**, regularly to stay up to date on all important information. Also, please join the Marching Band *Band App* for announcements and other communication. Please make sure to turn in all forms. These are required to participate in the Marching Band.



**Kevin Leonard, Director of Bands**

**[kevin.leonard@meade.kyschools.us](mailto:kevin.leonard@meade.kyschools.us)**

**[www.meadebands.org](http://www.meadebands.org)**

## Expectations

### Commitment

The Meade County High School Marching Band is constantly striving for EXCELLENCE. As with any program of EXCELLENCE, commitment is key to the success of that program. Due to the current pace of technology, we live in a day and age where it seems easy to get what we want by doing very little. However, the truly great things don't come so easily, but rather come at a price and require sacrifice. The MCHS Marching Band will require the commitment of your time, talents, energy, and resources. Not only do you have to be at mandatory rehearsals and performances, but you have to do your best while you are there. Many times you may go home emotionally and physically drained. This is the price paid for EXCELLENCE. This is the price paid for doing something that is *larger than you*. You will find that the friendships made and memories shared are well worth it. It is my hope that you will also find that performing is a worthwhile endeavor and those easy things sacrificed really didn't matter that much anyway. Parents/ guardians, you will find this is a large commitment on your part as well. Your time, transportation, monetary support, and motivation for your child are absolutely needed!!

### Teamwork and Inclusion

In Marching Band, we are a team. We are a family. We all come from different backgrounds and experiences, but we are all working together for a common goal: to achieve EXCELLENCE. Drama, fighting, talking about other people, and other general negativity limit our ability to achieve the goal. You may not be friends with everyone in the group, but you need to respect all of your teammates. We all want the same things in this program and it takes us all to be great! In order for all of us to be at our best, everyone has to feel that they are in a group that is safe and free from judgment. You have to be willing to accept everyone for who they are and appreciate that they are working as hard as you for OUR goals. **HATRED, BULLYING, RACISM, SEXISM, HOMOPHOBIA, OR ANY OTHER DISCRIMINATORY ACTIONS WILL NOT BE TOLERATED IN THIS PROGRAM! YOU WILL BE REMOVED IMMEDIATELY!**

If you are a person who feeds off negativity and drama, this is not the activity for you. **Creating a negative learning environment or consistent drama/issues with others may be grounds for removal.** This is solely at the Director's discretion. *Let's create something incredible and memorable TOGETHER!!*

## **Behavior and Grades**

We want the type of student who demonstrates excellence on and off the field. Behavioral issues, including, but not limited to, excessive office referrals, in-school suspensions, out and out-of-school suspensions, may be grounds for removal from the program. This will be reviewed on an individual basis. We also want students that excel in the classroom. It is expected that you keep up with your schoolwork. Time management is a huge part of this activity!

## **Camps and Important Dates**

### **Summer Camps**

#### Band Camp

**Band Camp is mandatory for both weeks for ALL band and guard members.** This will take place **July 14-18 and July 21-25 , 2025 from 8 am-5 pm.** Lunch will be from 12-1 pm each day. This occurs on the MCHS campus.

During band camp, students will participate in marching fundamentals, music sectionals, full band rehearsals, and marching drill. It is during this time that the marching band show is learned. Missing any part of Band Camp without prior approval from the directors is unacceptable.

#### What to bring/ wear:

- Large water jug, filled before coming to camp.
- Sunscreen to apply every day.
- School-appropriate shorts (pants can be worn, but are not recommended), light-colored shirts, **tennis shoes (no flip-flops, sandals, boots, Converse, Vans, slides, etc.)**, sunglasses, and preferably a hat.
- Clear sheet protectors for their music as well as a string or lanyard to wear around them while learning drill.
- “Dot Book” Spiral Bound Index Cards (100 count, cost under \$10)
- Students will need to bring lunch or have lunch brought to them. Lunch is from 12-1 pm. **NO ONE IS ALLOWED TO LEAVE CAMPUS FOR LUNCH.**
- Bring your instrument, music, equipment, and a good attitude!

#### Post Camp

The following days will be used as Post Camp. These are shorter rehearsals prior to the start of school: **July 28-31, DATES AND TIMES TBD.**

## School Year Dates

### Regular Season After School Rehearsals

The band rehearses **Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 3:30-6:30 pm**

### Preseason Saturday Camp Dates

**August 24th, August 31st Time TBD**

### Performance Dates

All contests except one fall on a Saturday. The events usually take up the entire day. Specific information will be given when we know performance times. Please see the calendar [www.meadebands.org](http://www.meadebands.org) for dates. A full performance schedule will be posted ASAP.

### Football Games Dates

Football dates are as follows (Friday Nights): September 12, 19, 26, October 31

**\*\*THERE MAY BE TIMES WHEN REHEARSALS NEED TO BE ADDED, CANCELED, OR ADJUSTED. WE TRY TO KEEP THESE TO A BARE MINIMUM AND WILL ANNOUNCE ANY CHANGES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. PLEASE BE FLEXIBLE WITH US.\*\***

## Attendance Policy

The Attendance Policy for the MCHS Marching Band is pretty straightforward. ***It is the expectation that all students attend all rehearsals and performances for the full duration.*** We do understand that situations arise. Communication is key!!

### Pre-Camp/Band Camp/Post-Camp

As stated in the "Summer Camps" section, **all camps are mandatory for both weeks for ALL band and guard members.** Missing any part of band camp without prior approval from the directors is unacceptable.

**IF A STUDENT MISSES MORE THAN ONE FULL DAY OF BAND CAMP, WITHOUT PRIOR APPROVAL, THAT STUDENT MAY BE PLACED ON ALTERNATE STATUS OR REMOVED FROM THE PROGRAM. THIS IS SOLELY AT THE DIRECTOR'S DISCRETION.**

### Rehearsals

All after-school/evening and Saturday rehearsals are mandatory. All rehearsals will begin and end promptly at the times stated on the Band Calendar. When students are absent, it puts the entire group behind, as we have to catch those students up on what was missed. Students are expected to be early and to have all equipment ready and in place by the start of rehearsal. Students will also be expected to stay for the full rehearsal and make sure that all equipment is put up at the end.

All rehearsal absences require written pre-approval from a Director. Please email *well in advance* about any conflicts. Please consider the rehearsal/performance schedule when setting doctor and other appointments. The band does not rehearse on Wednesdays which makes it a good day for such appointments.

*Student/parent texts, phone calls, emails, etc. made immediately prior to a rehearsal to inform the Band Director of the absence will not be accepted.*

*Students will also not be excused to miss rehearsals or performances because of work. Students should give their employers a copy of the Band Calendar to prevent conflicts from arising.*

*Students should not be held out of rehearsals as a form of punishment. This affects the entire group. Please see the Discipline Clause form.*

**MULTIPLE ABSENCES, EXCUSED OR UNEXCUSED, IN A WEEK, MAY PREVENT A STUDENT FROM PERFORMING ON THE NEXT PERFORMANCE. IF THIS PROBLEM PERSISTS, THE STUDENT MAY BE REMOVED FROM THE PROGRAM. THIS IS SOLELY AT THE DIRECTOR'S DISCRETION.**

### Performances

All football games, contests, and parades are mandatory. Any performance missed, other than for illness, death in the family, or other extreme circumstances deemed acceptable by the Director, are unexcused. These excused absences must be provided with written proof.

**ANY UNEXCUSED ABSENCE FROM ANY PERFORMANCE MAY BE GROUNDS FOR IMMEDIATE REMOVAL FROM THE PROGRAM. THIS IS SOLELY AT THE DIRECTOR'S DISCRETION.**

## **Band Fees**

Band fees are a necessary part of any successful band program. It is the aim of the MCHS Band program to keep fees as low as possible. Even though the fees seem quite substantial, the MCHS Band fees are one the lowest fees in the state of Kentucky for a competitive marching band. Fees are used to pay for the marching band music, the marching drill, instructional staff, color guard flag choreography and equipment, uniforms, hotel rooms, and meals. Fees for siblings in the band are half off (\$275.00). **Please see the fee sheet to see what the fees are used for and the payment schedule. All payments are NON-REFUNDABLE.**

## ALL MARCHING STUDENTS (Band & Guard)

Band Fees Total	\$550.00
Band Shoes <b>(If Needed)</b>	~\$50.00
Gloves <b>(If Needed)</b> , WW and Brass)	\$3.00

*Shoes and gloves orders will be taken during Band Camp.*

### GUARD ONLY

Guard Shoes <b>(If Needed)</b>	~\$40.00
Warm-up Jacket <b>(If Needed)</b>	~\$40.00
Warm-up Pants <b>(if Needed)</b>	~\$35.00
Guard Bag <b>(Optional)</b>	~\$28.00

*Shoes and other orders will be taken during Band Camp.*

Please fill out the Hardship form to request an alternate payment plan or to apply for a hardship.

## **Rehearsal Expectations**

### Objectives and Focus

The measure of how a band rehearses will indicate how well a band will perform. Bands don't just show up and perform on Fridays and Saturdays and sound and look good. Performances are backed up by efficient rehearsal procedures that are driven by clear objectives. The students in these rehearsals are focused and attentive. The student will be given directions at the beginning of every practice. Included in these directions will be the goals to strive for during the practice. Students will also be given vocal and visual cues that direct them during a rehearsal.

### Breaks

Students are typically given one 10-minute break for every hour to an hour and fifteen minutes of rehearsal time. The breaks occur more frequently in hotter temperatures and vice versa for cooler temperatures. *Students will be asked to remain outside during breaks unless they require the use of the restroom.* Students are expected to be on the field, ready to rehearse at the end of the break time, not walking back to the field at that time. Continual tardiness from breaks will result in the entire band running laps at the end of practice.

### Rehearsal Offenses

During rehearsals, EVERY member must be focused on the task at hand. Any distractions or lack of focus limits our improvement. The most obvious areas that detract from student focus include, but are not limited to, talking, texting, horse playing, and being late from breaks. Any time a Director, staff member, Drum Major, or Section Leader must correct these offenses during rehearsal, the ENTIRE band will run one lap at the end of practice for each infraction.

### Rehearsal Area

After a rehearsal, the area should be left clean and free from trash and other items. A good rule of thumb is that if you brought it in with you, it must leave with you.

### Equipment and Materials

Students are to have the necessary equipment and materials needed with them at the start of rehearsal. This includes an instrument that is free of repair and in good working order. They should also have their Dot Book. Students will also need to wear appropriate clothing and footwear (see What to bring/wear under Band Camp in the above Camp section). Students may not rehearse barefoot or in inappropriate shoes (slides, sandals, boots, Vans, Converse, etc.)

## **Game Procedures**

All times for the football games will be posted on the calendar. The following is a timeline of events for football games:

- After school, students will rehearse for the game at 3:15 pm. The length of the rehearsal is dependent on the start time of the game. Games usually have either a 7:30 pm or 8 pm kick-off time.
- After practice, students will move pit equipment and props to the stadium
- Students will have a dinner break after rehearsal ends.
- 45 minutes prior to kick-off, students will assemble into pregame lines for the final playthrough of pregame music.
- 30 minutes prior to kick-off, students march behind the freshman academy to Hamilton Field accompanied by a drumline cadence. Once on Hamilton Field, the band will remain by the band seating area in pre-game lines until it is time to play the National Anthem.
- 17 minutes prior to kick-off, the band will make their way to the 50-yard line and arc up into formation. The National Anthem and Fight Song will be played after the introduction of the band. After the National Anthem/Fight Song, the band will line up on the hash marks close to the band bleachers and await the football team to greet them with the Fight Song again. After this time the band will retire to the band bleachers. The band will play 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> quarters.



- 4 minutes before halftime (percussion/ guard at 6 minutes before) the band will assemble to warm-up and then play the competition show during halftime.
- After halftime, pit and drumline will transport pit equipment to the truck and will have the remaining time in the third quarter off as well as half of the fourth quarter.
- Third quarter will be off, but students must be back in their seats at 1 minute left in the third. If any one student is late, that student will lose third quarter privileges the next game. Any student found to be not where they belong during quarters 1, 2, and 4 will also lose third quarter privileges the next game.
- When the game ends, students will play the fight song. Once at the truck students will be given final instructions and dismissed with the MCHS Band Fallout Cheer. After the Fallout, students are required to stay and properly store uniforms, equipment, and instruments.
- 45 minutes after the game ends, all uniforms, equipment, and instruments should be stored away and all students should be on their way home.

## **Contest Procedures**

### Itineraries

Itineraries will be posted ASAP leading up to a competition on the Band App. All times, such as arrival, practice, departure, dress, warm-up, performance, meals, and return times will be listed. These times will vary from week to week. Students and parents are to read the schedules carefully so that the students may be on time and so that they may also have a ride home at the proper time to avoid any issues with tardiness.

### Transportation

Transportation of students to and from a contest is always by way of school bus. Students must ride to contests on a bus; however, a student may be signed out by a parent/legal guardian after a contest is over. To do this, parents will need to find the bus chaperone in charge of the bus list for the student's bus and sign off next to the student's name on the bus list. Students will be sent a bus sign up form to complete online before the first band contest. These will be used to generate bus lists at the beginning of the season and students will ride the same bus all season.

### Meals

Students will be fed at all competitions by the Food Crew. This is part of the student's band fee. The menu will be given prior to each contest. Students not wanting that meal or that have severe dietary restrictions must have their own meal

brought to them. A vegetarian option will be available for all meals.

## **Band Trips**

### Types of trips

The band will travel 6-8 different times in the Marching Season. Most of these trips will be on Saturday in which students will leave early-midday and will return late evening. The last trip will be a two-night stay in Indianapolis, IN for the BOA Grand Nationals. The competition is held at Lucas Oil Stadium, home of the Indianapolis Colts. Breakfast will be provided at the hotel and students will need to bring enough money for 3-4 other meals. They may also want to bring some optional money to spend at the mall and exhibit booths.

### Etiquette

Students are to obey all school and band rules while on band trips. Students should remember that they are ambassadors of Meade County whenever the band travels. Students should conduct themselves in a way that others would view with respect.

## **Medical / Health Concerns**

### Medication

Students must have an "Authorization to Give Medication" Form on file with the school for each medication that a student must be given while under the supervision of school personnel. This includes prescriptions and over-the-counter medication. This form can be found on the district website under Departments> Health Services> Medical Permission Forms.

### Student Health During Practice

Students need to be in good physical shape to be in the marching band. Students must be able to endure 2-3 weeks of band camp as well as 3 practices plus 1-2 performances per week throughout the marching season. Students who become ill or feel the need to sit out during a rehearsal must relay that need to a director before sitting on the front sidelines. Students are not allowed to sit behind the band in the stairwell leading into the freshman academy. After a student is sitting out, the director will discuss with the student any medical issues that they may be experiencing. If this becomes excessive due to a student's poor health or physical condition, then membership in the marching band for that student will have to be reexamined, and a parent meeting will be called to discuss possible solutions. The

better in shape a student is, the easier it will be for them!

## **Lettering in Band**

Students completing their first full marching band season will receive a letter. Students completing any subsequent seasons will receive a bar. A letterman jacket may be purchased separately at Duke's Sporting Goods in Elizabethtown.

## **Parents/ Boosters**

Booster support is monumental in having a successful band program. New parents who join the boosters each year are the lifeline of this organization. Just as students sacrifice to be in band knowing that in the long run it's well worth it, the boosters work just as hard and reap great rewards. Please consider becoming a band booster and donate time to a worthwhile thing, your children. **WE NEED YOUR HELP!!**

### Booster Meeting Dates

Booster Meetings are typically held on Tuesdays at 7 PM in the MCHS Band Room. These will be posted to the calendar and announced on our platforms.

### Fundraisers

The booster organization is constantly searching for new ways to generate money to support the band. There are many activities that are carried over from year to year, but adding new activities into the mix helps to create variety and to generate interest to gain new supporters. New booster members mean fresh ideas and ways to help the band to grow.

### Concessions

The largest generator of money for the MCHS Band Booster Organization is the Concession Stands. The MCHS Band provides concession service for ALL home football games. This includes Varsity, Junior Varsity, freshmen, 8th-grade, and 7th-grade games. This is an amazing task, and to do it requires a vast amount of volunteers. We ask that all parents try to work concessions at least 2-4 games. This type of participation greatly reduces the amount of work overall.

## Parent Helpers

There are many other areas in which parents can help or lend their expertise. These areas include, but are not limited to:

Chaperones  
Prop Crew  
Pit Crew  
Concessions  
Food Crew

Uniform/ Costume Crew  
Photography/ Videography Crew