

**Midland Park High School Marching Band  
Presents**

# **EVOLUTION**

*A History of the Marching Arts*

**1957-2017**

Handbook

This book contains the following:

1. Introduction
2. Attendance Policy
3. Uniform Guidelines
4. Performance Guidelines
5. Your Own Equipment
6. Parent Guideline Page / Parent Sign Up Sheet
7. Fundraising System
8. Conflict Sheet

Before we can begin the season, it is important to understand that there are certain guidelines that must be followed in order for us to be prepared for success. Please read through the information in this handbook very carefully. It contains important dates, many new rules, and other information that you will need to be familiar with. Pay particular attention to the attendance policy, since it must be signed by you (the student) and you (the parent) and returned to me before the August 18 rehearsal. (Friday of Camp)

Being a member of the **Midland Park High School Marching Band** affords you many opportunities. It also binds you to many responsibilities including the following:

- \*You are expected to work cooperatively with all staff members and other students.
- \*You must **memorize** all of your music by **August 24**.
- \*You must report promptly to ALL rehearsals, performances, and functions.
- \*You must practice your music and/or guard work regularly.
- \*You are expected to help with set-up and break down for each rehearsal
- \*You must give it your "BEST SHOT" every time, all the time.

I am very excited about beginning the 2017 MPHS Marching Band Season. Every member of this group has so much to offer, and together we will achieve greatness! Remember...*Although perfection can never be attained, it must always be the goal!*

Work hard...HAVE FUN!

# **ATTENDANCE POLICY 2017**

## **(SAVE THIS COPY)**

The attendance policy for the Marching Band is actually quite simple. All rehearsals, performances, and activities listed in the calendar are **MANDATORY**. When joining the Marching Band, you accept the rehearsal/performance calendar as your personal responsibility. Realize that successful performances can only be achieved through effective rehearsals. Absences from rehearsals have a **significant effect** on the band's ability to move ahead. Since we must perform as a complete group, it is therefore **imperative** that we rehearse as one.

I do understand that we do experience conflicts. I spend much of the fall season resolving these conflicts. There are some guidelines that I follow with related to school sports. A performance is more important than practice...This means if you have soccer practice (just an example) and a band performance at the same time, I expect you to be with the band. The opposite is true. Band is not always the priority but it cannot be ignored. The most important aspect in resolving these problems is telling Mr. Marks **at least one full week in advance**.

### **Preparation**

You are required to be prepared for each rehearsal so that rehearsals may begin on time. That means that you are at the field with your instrument, music, pencil, drill book (with your spot **highlighted**), and other necessary materials **ready to start**. Students should arrive approximately a half-hour to fifteen minutes before each meeting time (performances and practices) This may be changed on special occasions and students should be aware of announcements that are made about meeting times. Section leaders will begin warm-ups ten minutes before rehearsal is scheduled to begin.

### **Absences**

An absence from rehearsal occurs when a student misses a complete rehearsal or when he or she is more than thirty minutes late. Excused absences from rehearsal are limited to the following:

- \* Personal illness which confines you at home (excused absence from school)
- \* Death in the family
- \* Religious holiday (please notify the Band Director in advance)
- \* Other prearranged absences approved by the Band Director (one week advance notice required (this includes sports))

Unexcused absences include reasons not listed above. Remember that you have regularly scheduled rehearsals which have been given to you long in advance. Please make sure that you do not schedule college visits, medical or dental appointments, academic tutoring, private music instruction, or any other activity during these specified times.

If you believe that a conflict is unavoidable, see Mr. Marks as far in advance as possible. Often times, options can be worked out with other teachers, etc. that will make it unnecessary to miss marching band rehearsal. (With advance notice things can be worked out.)

### **Unexcused absences and tardiness will result in disciplinary action.**

Unexcused tardiness first offense: Student conference with Band Director

Second offense: Phone call to parent

Third offense: Suspension from one performance

Subsequent offenses will be dealt with accordingly, and may lead to expulsion from the group.

Unexcused absence first offense: Student conference with Band Director, phone call to parent.

Second offense: Suspension from one performance.

Third offense: Expulsion possible from the group.

If you miss a rehearsal for any reason, the staff reserves the right to prohibit you from marching in the next performance, if they feel that you are not adequately prepared. Several missed rehearsals may result in your expulsion from the group since you will not be able to catch up.

**Communication**

Communication of absences must be done directly through the Band Director only! For example, you cannot tell someone to tell the Director that you will be absent. Even if the reason is legitimate, this will be considered an unexcused absence. The communication must be made **in person** from student to Director, and all advance absence requests must be provided in writing from a parent. If you are sick at home, it is helpful if you or your parent call in to notify the Director that you will not be present at rehearsal. The Band Office phone number is **444-7400 ext.225**. Absences due to illness must be followed up with a note from home confirming the validity of the absence.

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The success of the Midland Park High School Marching Band is dependent upon the dedication and attendance of all members of the group. Absences and tardiness from rehearsals have a significant effect on the band's ability to move ahead. The attendance policy, as stated in the Band Handbook, is aimed at providing a positive working and learning environment for all students in order to attain the highest level of achievement and performance.

**Student Agreement**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, have read the MPHS Marching Band Attendance Policy as stated in the band handbook. I realize the importance that my attendance plays in the success of the marching band, and I agree to abide by the guidelines stated in this policy.

Signature

Date

**Parental Agreement**

I/We, the parent(s) of \_\_\_\_\_, have read the MPHS Marching Band Attendance Policy as stated in the Band Handbook. I/We agree to help our son/daughter to fulfill his/her obligation .

Signature(s)

Date

Signature(s)

Date

***Please sign and return one copy of this attendance policy to Mr. Marks by Friday  
August 18, 2017***

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Signature(s)

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# Guidelines for wearing the Midland Park High School Marching Band Uniform

## GENERAL RULES:

\* Everyone must maintain the same level of dress at all times this includes the following items.

- |                 |                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| - Uniform Pants | -Uniform Raincoat  |
| - Uniform Top   | -Uniform Gloves    |
| - Jacket insert | -Appropriate Socks |
| - Uniform Shoes | -Show Shirt        |

\* At all performances students must bring their dress down uniform as well. This consists of:

- |                                       |                       |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| -Show shirt (color will be specified) | -Warm Up Suits/Sweats |
| -Appropriate Socks                    |                       |

\* The Helmet (hat) MUST be kept upright at all times. The helmet should NEVER be carried by the plume or upside down by the strap.

\* The helmet must always be worn properly, NEVER BACKWARDS!

\* Gloves are to be kept as clean as possible at all times. Gloves may be taken home and washed but they must be hung to dry (Dryer will melt gloves) Students are responsible for returning gloves to the uniform room before the next performance day.

\* Uniform Shoes should always be kept clean and polished (we will do this together before each performance).

- Any clothing worn underneath the uniform must not be visible. Thermal Underwear is suggested in colder temperatures. For all occasions it should be understood that the student may need to change in a large room or bus and should wear appropriate undergarments. (this includes printed or colored underwear, long johns, sweaters, etc.)

\* Jewelry (rings, watches, earrings), and heavy makeup may not be worn while in uniform, unless it is part of a specific costume. Hair longer than collar length must be worn up in the Helmet.

\* The MPHS Marching Band Uniform may only be worn by members exclusively for performances.

\* Damage to or loss of any part of the uniform is YOUR financial responsibility.

\*\*\* In extreme weather conditions additional clothing may be permitted at the discretion of the staff. Students should be encouraged to bring extra clothing on the bus if it is necessary.

*A uniform can only represent what those who wear the uniform want it to represent. When you wear your uniform, remember who you are and how hard you have worked, and you will project an image of PRIDE and DIGNITY that will command RESPECT!*



**NOT ALLOWED WHILE IN UNIFORM:**

- \* Running
- \* Shouting (Unless called for in performance or in the line of duty)
- \* Swearing
- \* Smoking
- \* Spitting
- \* Public Displays of Affection
- \* Cell Phones and Texting (only allowed on the bus)
- \* Any other inappropriate public behavior.
- \* Any other rule contained in the MPHS Student Handbook

# Performance Guidelines

## *and other important information*

- \* Sit in the assigned area and play your instrument only when the band plays together.
- \* Bring all of your music in a **FUNKY** (flip folder containing pep tunes) with a lyre (clip on instrument to hold funky) to all games and rehearsals.
- \* Complete uniforms will be worn at all times in the proper manner.
- \* Cheer with the cheerleaders and support the team.
- \* **ALWAYS** play in a musical manner. Even outdoors, you can play in tune, with a good tone quality, good articulations, and good dynamics. Our marching band is first and foremost a **MUSICAL** organization.
- \* During the third quarter, refreshments may be purchased from the concession stands if time allows. Students should always bring lunch on performance days unless told otherwise. There may not be a set lunchtime but students are allowed to eat during the 15 minute dressing time.
- \* You must be able to answer the following question on demand: What does DSG stand for? Donald S George. Failure to know this information will cause you to be assigned a task by the student leaders.
- \* Please be careful not to spill anything on your uniform. You **may not bring food or drinks into the stands. You may not accept food or drink from parents in the stands. Rain Coats should be buttoned while eating if weather conditions permit.**
- \* Always observe rules for wearing the marching band uniform.
- \* When visiting other venues, always be respectful of their grounds and buildings.
- \* When you are not seated with the band (for example, getting refreshments at a competition, or going to the rest room) you must travel in a group of at least three band members or with a chaperone. This is for your protection.
- \* Your performance and behavior at games and competitions determines the way in which our band is perceived by the public. **Always conduct yourself with PRIDE, and you will be worthy of their RESPECT!**

\*\* While attending competitions and football games students **ARE NOT ALLOWED to BRING BACKPACKS or WORK INTO THE STANDS.** If a competition is longer than three hours you will be permitted to return to the bus with a chaperone to do homework for the difference in time. The only exception to this rule is our own show and Championship Events where **no** work may be done.

The following is an example:

Competition is 5 hours (Determined by scheduled times)

You will be allowed a two hour period that will be determined by the director to do homework on the bus.

\* Chaperones are present at all games and competitions, and are there to help you. Please be courteous and cooperative at all times.

\* Following each game or competition, we will parade back to the band room or buses. You may not leave any event early, unless prior arrangements are made with the Director. When permission is granted, you must leave accompanied by your own parents **ONLY**, and you must report to the Director with them prior to your departure.

\* You are responsible for your own personal property. Therefore, it is suggested that expensive items are not brought on bus trips. Electronic devices (other than phones) are only permitted on busses for trips longer than 30 minutes.

\* All instrument cases must be labeled.

### ***And a few heavy duty rules and regulations...***

\* The use of drugs or alcohol will result in immediate expulsion from the MPHS Marching Band. Staff and chaperones may inspect students property when necessary.

**RULES AND SANCTIONS OF  
MIDLAND PARK HIGH SCHOOL  
CONCERNING THE USE OF DRUGS  
AND ALCOHOL WILL BE  
STRICTLY ENFORCED AT ALL  
TIMES!**

**\*\*REMEMBER....You are representing Midland Park High School and the Town of Midland Park. Please be courteous and cooperative at all times. The guidelines stated above are for your safety and well-being, and for ensuring a terrific musical and educational experience.**

# Your Equipment...Your Responsibility!!!

Every member of the MPHS Marching Band assumes responsibility for the equipment that they use throughout the season. Whether your equipment is owned by the school or by yourself, there are certain guidelines to which each member must adhere. The first general rule is that nobody is permitted to use, play, or try anyone else's equipment at any time. Additionally, there are certain cleaning guidelines for each instrument.

Woodwinds: Instruments must be swabbed after each use, and must be swabbed and polished prior to each performance.

Valve Brass: All valves and slides must be kept lubricated. Tubing must be flushed with warm water once a week. Mouthpieces must be cleaned at least once a week. Instruments must be polished prior to each performance. Silver polish should be used with silver plated instruments.

## Parent Page (s)

In order for the Marching Band to have successful year, there five main things for parents to understand.

1. The program is designed to teach students musical and life skills. The staff expects the students to have a high level of responsibility. We realize that parents can assist the younger students but as much as possible this should be a student driven experience.

2. It is important to remember that the band does everything together as a unit and in the same way. Students are not allowed to move their seats during games or take food from parents in the stands. They must stay part of the group at all times. Please do your best to respect this boundary so that your child does not feel like they are in an awkward situation.

3. Parents are crucial to the success of the program. Certain aspects of the program rely on parent participation. First, is the participation at events throughout the season (games and competitions). We ask that each parent sign up to help at one or more performances. This involves helping to load, unload, and move equipment. The equipment is all on wheels and easy to handle.

The second event is Music in the Park. At this event, Oct. 8, we expect every parent to help. This fundraiser provides much of the funding for the marching band program. The event requires many hours of planning in all areas. These areas include sponsorship, publicity, tickets, food and logistics. You can be involved in many capacities but we would like everyone to play a role in making this day a success.

4. Please understand that all the students have a responsibility to the group. By joining the group they are agreeing to follow all the guidelines in this book. Don't ask your child to break these rules. Each child is crucial to the success of the band. If a child is not present the band cannot perform to its full potential. We are a small group and one missing member can cause a space on the field that distorts the drill (field designs) and music for all the others involved. We do realize that events in your family occur and we appreciate their importance, but we would ask that you consider all the members of the group when a conflict arises. Please contact Mr. Marks with conflicts as soon as possible.

5. Last but not least is fan support. The students love to perform for a responsive crowd. Family needs to be there as much as possible and cheer as loudly as possible. You will see that the band responds to this support and it is the only thing any of you can do to help the performance once the band takes the field. Admission to events can be anywhere from \$2 to \$15 per ticket depending on event and location.

# Parent FAQ's

**1. Where are uniforms kept?** All uniforms are kept in the band room at all times. Uniforms are sent out to the cleaners as a group when necessary (approx. every 3 weeks)

**2. Are there any parent positions within the band program?** The Midland Park Performing Arts Parents have many positions that exist to help the marching band. These include : Competition Chair, Competition Assistant, Sponsorship, Spirit, Equipment, and others. If you are interested contact Mr. Marks for more information.

**3. Can students eat while with the band?** Students are only able to eat in uniform when the entire band is given permission. Before changing into uniform students may eat in the band room. At no point can students eat in the stands during any performance. Food may not be brought back to the band room after games. The students are encouraged to stay away from any food item that can stain. Many camp/rehearsal meal times are not planned until an hour beforehand. Please send your child to camp/rehearsals with food. It is difficult to coordinate dropping off food, as meal times are generally only 15-30 minutes. There are multiple students with food allergies so we would ask that no nut products are sent in.

**4. Do practices always end on time?** The practice schedule is designed to follow a 2 hour time slot (in most cases). If one student is late, the entire group **may** be held to make up this time. Be aware that the students are normally asked to be there between **15 to 30** minutes before the practice begins. This allows for the field to be set up for the start of practice. No students are allowed to leave until the entire group is dismissed by the Staff or Drum Major.

# Fundraising & Student Accounts

I realize that having children is expensive and all decisions concerning the band program are made with that in mind. Below you will find the fundraising system we use. No student will be excluded from an event do to monetary issues. Please contact me with any situations that arise.

The MP Performing Arts Parents maintains the accounting of all fundraising. The process followed is decided by the trustees of the Parents Association.

1. Individual Fundraisers give students credit. Each student has an individual account with the parents association. This account can be used for any department function (Instrumental, Choral, Dramatic) The students can participate in all fundraisers that are provided to the groups which they are involved in. Fundraisers can come from teacher or from the performing arts parents but all the money goes to the same place.
2. This account is maintained throughout their school career. At the end of their senior year all money left is put in the general fund. At no time is fundraising money paid to a student for any reason.
3. Each fundraiser has a different profit margin. Please understand that they are usually between 25% and 50% but students can ask the director for details.
4. A written note from parents must be submitted to use account money for a department expense.
5. If a student loses items that are department property (instrument, uniform, books) the item may be replaced with account money without authorization.
6. Generally the following applies to trips. Each year the band program has a fall marching band tour and a spring concert band tour. On even school years (by spring date) the concert band may take a spring overnight trip 3-6 days. On odd school years the concert band may take a day trip. All trip decisions are made by the band staff in conjunction with the Board of Education and the High School Administration.

# 2017 MPHS Marching Band Calendar

The following page contains the Marching Band Calendar for the 2017 Season. You are required to attend all rehearsals, performances, and activities. Please see the pages entitled "ATTENDANCE POLICY" for further information.

**REHEARSALS WILL NEVER BE CANCELED DUE TO BAD WEATHER unless it is unsafe to travel!**

In the event of inclement weather, rehearsals will be held in an indoor facility which will be announced that day, either by school P.A. announcement or on the Band Room Board.

\*\*\*Please remember that staff members and section leaders reserve the right to require additional sectional rehearsals. In these cases, it is the responsibility of the staff member or section leader to determine a mutually agreeable time to rehearse. These rehearsals are just as important as those that are listed on the calendar, and attendance will be taken.

**THIS CALENDAR IS TENTATIVE...THERE MAY BE SOME ALTERATIONS.**

**ANY CHANGES WILL BE MADE WITH AS MUCH ADVANCE NOTICE AS POSSIBLE!!!**

**PLEASE DO NOT SCHEDULE ANY APPOINTMENTS, FAMILY GATHERINGS, OR COLLEGE VISITS, ETC. NO MAJOR CHANGES TO BRACES SHOULD OCCUR DURING THE SEASON FOR WIND PLAYERS. THAT WILL CONFLICT WITH REHEARSALS OR PERFORMANCES!!! YOU HAVE MADE A COMMITMENT TO THE MPHS MARCHING BAND, AND HAVE THEREFORE AGREED TO ADHERE TO THIS CALENDAR.**



# Conflict Sheet Marching Band 2017

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Section \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Circle and **explain** any conflict (Conflicts are not automatically approved!)

## Practices (weeknight)

August 24, 29, 31 – 6-9 (5:45 report) (YOU ALREADY SIGNED that you would be here for these when you signed up for Marching Band)

September 5, 7, 12, 14, 19, 21, 26 - All are 7 - 9 (6:45 report)

October 3, 5, 10, 12, 17, 19, 24, 25, 26 - All are 7 - 9 (6:45 report)

**Practices (weekend)** \* There will also be practice before every performance!

September 9 - Car Wash & Practice 8-5

September 16 – 12-5 pm

September 23 – 12-5 pm

September 30 – 12-5 pm

## Football Games

September 8 - At night (4:00 pm report)

September 28 - At night (4:00 pm report)

October 7 – Day at MPHS (10:30 am report)

\* Playoff games may be added

## Competitions

September 17 - NYSFBC at Brentwood, NY (8:00 am report)

September 23 – USBands Competition at Northern Highlands

October 1 - NYSFBC at Huntington, NY (8:00 am report)

October 8 - MUSIC IN THE PARK XIX at MPHS (8:00 am report)

October 14 - Competition (Ind) at Verona (12:00 pm report)

October 21 - NJ State Marching Band Festival at Wayne Hills HS (12:00 pm report)

October 22 - NYSFBC at Kingston, NY

October 28 - NYSFBC at Phoenix, NY

October 29 - NYSFBC Championships at Syracuse, NY

**Returned to Drum Major by August 16<sup>th</sup>**