



THE PRIDE OF MALVERNE MARCHING BAND



HANDBOOK 2017 - 2018



Malverne High School Marching Band
2011 Small School 2 State Champions
2010 Small School 3 State Champions
2006 Small School 3 State Champions

OVERVIEW OF THE PROGRAM

The marching band is an intense, rewarding activity that approximately 130 students participate in each year. It is a major component of the high school band program. The season spans from spring through the end of October. Marching band requires commitment above anything else – commitment to a rigorous schedule, to focused rehearsals, and to striving for excellence. ***Students must be enrolled in a band class in order to play in the marching band, as marching band is a component of the band grade.***

Schedule

Spring Rehearsals

Full band rehearsals begin on Wednesday, April 19, from 6:00pm-8:00pm. These rehearsals are mandatory. A full calendar is on the website of these spring rehearsal times and has also been printed out and distributed to all students. They are not consistently on Wednesdays due to concerts, awards, other events, etc. Please make sure you check week to week and mark in your calendar when these rehearsals occur.

Summer Rehearsals

Summer rehearsals run Monday and Wednesdays from 6:00pm-9:00pm, and all students must attend. *Students who do not attend the necessary rehearsals will be required to make up the time during extra help in September in order to participate in performances.*

Band Camp (August 7-11, 2017)

Band Camp is a mandatory five-day period in which the band learns its drill (forms) and music. Students are expected to be present *all day, each day*. Band Camp runs from 11-6, with a lunch break as well as periodic water breaks. Camp runs regardless of weather, so be prepared for anything! Students may leave campus for lunch but are expected to *be back and ready to play at the designated time.*

The Friday of band camp is a special day. Our music parents provide a barbeque dinner for the students. After the barbeque, the band gives its debut performance for family and friends **(August 11, 7pm)**. All are encouraged to attend and see what hard work the students have been putting in all week.

Band camp is considered part of the “audition process” for becoming a member of the band. This is a long, tiring week, both mentally and physically, but crucial to our success. *Students who do not demonstrate a positive attitude towards the activity will be removed from the program.*

What to Bring:

Sunscreen	Instrument & supplies	Rain gear
Water	Music/Binders	Hat
Lunch or \$\$	Sneakers	Sunglasses



Fall Rehearsals

During the fall, we rehearse each Monday and Wednesday evening from 6-9:00pm, as well as most Saturdays. Rehearsal begins at its designated time; this means that students should arrive 15 minutes early so that they may be ready to start on time. Rehearsal will never be canceled due to weather conditions; practice may still be held outside even in the rain, so it is important to be prepared with proper clothing. As the season begins, the temperature can drop as well.

Students are to behave maturely and respectfully at all rehearsals. *Distracting behavior, as well as use of cell phones, is unacceptable.* Those who do not act appropriately will be removed from the field and may be sent home. Students removed from a rehearsal put their participation in the program in jeopardy.

Competitions

Competitions are held on Saturdays and Sundays at local high schools. On most days, the band will rehearse before leaving for the competition. Performance times and directions for spectators will be provided as soon as possible. Parents should note that there is an admission fee to these events (approximately \$6-10). Students should be sent with lunch or lunch money, as there is food available at competition sites.

At the competitions, students are judged in six categories that include the visual and musical aspects of their show. The staff and students use the comments and suggestions offered by the judges to make improvements for the next performance. *The competition season culminates with the NYSFBC Championship show held in Syracuse, NY, during the weekend of October 28 through October 30, 2017.* More information will follow!

Each band member is a representative of Malverne High School, and all students are expected to uphold our good reputation in attitude, behavior, and appearance.

Students return home on the bus. Upon return to MHS, students are expected to help unload the truck and assist in cleaning the room and hallways. No student can leave until the entire band is dismissed. If for some reason the student must be picked up from a competition by a guardian, Mr. Johnson must be given a written note prior to the competition and must see the parent/guardian leave with the student.

Percussion (Battery and Front Ensemble)

Percussionists rehearse weekly throughout the spring and summer months, beginning on Wednesday, March 22 at 6:00pm. Students may audition for the battery in the spring. The percussion section is the foundation of the marching band and even has its' own staff. Students who are selected to be part of the percussion section must commit to potential extra sections, separate from the scheduled rehearsals times throughout the season.



Color Guard



The Color Guard provides visual aspects of our marching band show. Color Guard rehearses alone throughout the Spring, and with the band during the Summer and Fall. Any student currently in 8th-11th grade may be in the Color Guard.

Drum Majors

Drum majors are auditioned and chosen for their leadership skills and musical abilities. Students may audition while in 10th or 11th grade. They are expected to be constant role models for the other students both on the field and off. Drum majors work off the orders of the band director, and in turn students are expected to be respectful and follow their directions. Drum majors may run warm-ups or rehearsals and students should take these rehearsals seriously.



STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

Each rehearsal, class, and lesson throughout the year is an audition for the marching band. Students will be constantly re-evaluated based on behavior, attitude, and skills for their participation in the band. Students willing to put in the effort will find that they get what they put into it! Students who hinder the group's progress by demonstrating a negative attitude or lack of effort may be removed from the marching band at any time

Rehearsals

Attitude is the biggest component of the marching band. Students are expected to come in to rehearsal with an open mind and a willingness to work hard! Our success is a direct result of the effort and commitment of our students.



Students who misbehave or display a negative attitude will be removed from rehearsal and sent home. Students who do so will put themselves in jeopardy of removal from the program.

The staff will also be evaluating the musical and marching skills of the students throughout the season. We understand that skill levels vary amongst students and we will try to help each student to do their best. We are looking for *effort and improvement, as well as a desire to do better.* **Students who display a negative attitude that hinders the success of the group will be removed from the program.**

Attendance and being on time is extremely important. "On time" means that the student is in the designated place, set up and ready for rehearsal to begin. Students must be on time upon return from lunch breaks as well. Students involved in athletics are to report to band immediately following dismissal from the sport.

Students who show up late to rehearsal will report to Mr. Johnson at the end of rehearsal. To make up the time, late students might be asked to play, march, or help clean up. Extra help may also be required at a later date.

Unexcused latenesses (including lunch latenesses) or unexcused absences may have a student removed from the next show. The student's grade will reflect any missed performances.

Students are expected to participate fully in every part of rehearsal. This includes all warm-ups as well. For us to be successful, 100% effort is needed at all times from everyone! Because so many changes and improvements are made during rehearsals, students who sit out during rehearsals may not be allowed to march in the next show.

Performances

When we attend competitions and other performances, *we are a reflection of Malverne in action, behavior, attitude, and appearance.* Students are expected to display a positive image in all aspects of conduct whether we are at our home school, on the bus, or at another site. Use of profanity will not be tolerated. Students caught acting negatively at a performance will not be allowed to perform at the next one.



Students are to follow all directions given by staff and chaperones on the trip. They are to remain respectful to all adults and other students on the trip. Band members are to be cooperative with drum majors and other student leaders as well – they receive their directions from the staff.

While at a performance, students are to remain in their band pants (with suspenders up) and in their band shoes. After getting food, the band will gather together in a designated spot with the chaperones. Students are to remain respectful to the chaperones, other students, and students/adults from other schools.

When scores are announced, Malverne will stand together quietly for the entirety of its class. There is to be no overreacting to scores or rankings. Standing shows pride for our school as well as respect for the other bands, regardless of the outcome.

Performance Dress

- Black socks
- Band shoes
- Band t-shirt
- Suspenders should always be up whenever we are in uniform
- No jewelry- appropriate stud earrings are the only jewelry that may be worn.
- Long hair must be tied up so that it can fit under hat

Students can layer under their uniforms when the weather gets colder, as long as these layers are not visible when the uniform is worn.

Uniform Care

After performances, students must hang up their uniforms neatly in their garment bags. Students are to hang the bags in the appropriate sections of the uniform rack and place hatbox (containing other uniform articles) in the closet. These uniforms are very expensive (close to \$600 each!), and students must take proper care of them. *Students will be held financially accountable for loss or any damage done to uniforms as a result of improper care.*

Dismissal Procedure

Students will be allowed to leave their buses row by row only after a chaperone has checked that the bus is clean. The band will not be dismissed until the truck has been unloaded, all uniforms are put away, and the room is free from garbage. All students are expected to help unload and clean up. Attendance may be taken before dismissal. No one is free to leave until the whole band has been dismissed.

Instruments

Students playing percussion and certain wind instruments may be loaned instruments for the season. These instruments are very expensive and need to be properly cared for. *Students are financially responsible for any damage done to an instrument as a result of improper care or behavior.* Students who own their instruments should make sure to keep them in good working condition.

Discipline

Students are expected to behave as they would in a classroom at all times, whether they are out on the marching band field or away at a competition. *All school rules and consequences apply regardless of location.*

Absences

Students who commit to the marching band must do so fully. Band is a credited and graded course, and marching band is a component of this grade. *Students are expected to attend all rehearsals and performances for their entirety.* This means that work schedules and other non-school activities must be arranged around the band schedule. Jobs are not a valid excuse for absence or lateness; please provide employers with a copy of the marching band schedule to avoid conflicts.

When other school activities conflict with marching band, advisors of the activities compromise and the students are made aware of their responsibilities to each group.

Students who miss any part of rehearsal time (excused or unexcused) may be removed from future performances, as much is changed and improved during each rehearsal for each upcoming performance. Remember, your attendance affects not only you but those around you!

If a student falls ill and cannot attend a rehearsal or performance, please call 887-6486 and leave a message so that we know not to expect that person.

If there is one-time event (ex. wedding) that conflicts with a rehearsal or performance, please notify Mr. Johnson at 887-6486 well in advance and send a note that we can keep on record. *Students who are unable to participate in all marching band activities, even for an excused absence, may be responsible for written work to make up the grade.* The same rule applies to students who have been removed from activities due to behavior or lateness.

Sports

It is possible for students to be involved in both sports and band, granted they follow through with their responsibilities to both activities. Students need to communicate with Mr. Johnson about their schedules. Football players will be evaluated on a case by case basis.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Parents/guardians are crucial to the success (and fun!) of the marching band! Adults can be involved with the marching band in a number of ways, including:

- Measuring for, assigning, and adjusting uniforms
- Sewing flags
- Distributing pizza for athletes on rehearsal nights
- Donating paper goods for meals
- Attending Music Parents meetings (on school calendar)
- **Helping with the Malverne Competition! Much information to follow!**
- *Most importantly – attending performances!*



WEBSITE and REMIND APP

Please visit our website (www.prideofmalverne.com) for access to this handbook, the schedule, directions to competitions, recent scores, photos, and more!

Join our remind group @malverneba, for constant updates regarding the marching band throughout the school year.



THE PRIDE OF MALVERNE MARCHING BAND

2017-2018 CONTRACT

I have read the Marching Band Handbook in its entirety and understand its contents. I have also received the 2017 Schedule. I understand what is expected of me regarding attendance, effort, and behavior. *I understand that I may be removed from the marching band at any time if I fail to meet these expectations.*

Student Name

Date

Student Signature

I have read the Marching Band Handbook in its entirety and understand its contents. I understand that I can call Mr. Johnson at 887-6486 with any questions or concerns that may arise.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Contact #

Parent/Guardian Email