

**The West Orange High School
Marching Mountaineers**
“Pride, Dedication, Excellence”

***STUDENT & PARENT
HANDBOOK***

The Marching Mountaineers Purpose

The purpose of the West Orange High School Marching Mountaineers is to provide a forum in which every student is encouraged to achieve their maximum potential through participation in the art of marching music pageantry. The group is one of the most successful groups on campus. Numerous titles and trophies have been won over its lifetime.

Conduct

Participation in the Marching Mountaineers is an honor and a privilege. Each member of the Marching Mountaineers is expected to:

- Treat everyone with dignity and respect.
- Do your best always.
- Display a positive and cooperative attitude at all times.
- Be a person of integrity.
- Lead by example. (meet the standard you are holding others to)
- Strive for excellence without arrogance.
- Tolerate honest mistakes from people who are doing their best.
- Keep a sense of humor and be able to laugh at yourself.

Directors and Staff

The directors and staff are responsible for organizing all aspects of the marching band program. These include many staff members besides Mr. Kelly and Ms. McClure who are hired because of their extensive knowledge and experience in the marching band and color guard world. Please remember that all staff members are here for you! Do not show them any disrespect at any time. They are here to make your life better!

Student Leadership

Drum Majors: The position of Drum Major is selected by audition only. The Drum Major carries the responsibility of field conducting. The Drum Majors may also assist in the teaching of drill, running a sectional, marching tutoring, checking attendance, and any other duty given by the directors. The Drum Majors act as a liaison between the students and staff.

Color Guard Captains: The position of Color Guard Captain is selected by audition only. The Color Guard Captains assists in movement tutoring and warm-up block. The Color Guard Captains acts as a liaison between the students and staff.

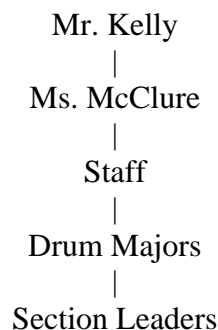
Percussion Captains: The positions of Percussion Captain (Drum Line) and Percussion Captain (Pit) are selected by audition only. The Percussion Captains assists in marching tutoring and warm-up exercises. The Percussion Captains act as liaisons between the students and the staff.

Section Leaders: The position of Percussion Captain is selected by audition only. The Section Leaders assist in relaying important information from the staff and Drum Majors to the band. They will also run sectionals and assist in marching tutoring.

For most performances, there will be parent crews to assist with loading and unloading the truck. They are taking time out of their busy lives to help you, so please treat them with the utmost respect and a smile always.

The Chain of Command

All successful organizations have structure. To assist in the running of our group, we have certain people designated as leaders. The Drum Majors and other Student Leaders have been given these titles because of their wealth of knowledge and commitment to this organization. If you need valve oil or a reed, ask your section leader. It's not that you needing valve oil or a reed in unimportant, but if 100 people are asking Mr. Kelly and Ms. McClure for these items, we will never get anything done. So, please follow the following "Chain of Command".



General Rules

1. BE PROMPT! Being on time shows a respect for everyone else's valuable time.
2. Smoking, drinking, use of drugs, and the use of foul language are inappropriate, unacceptable, and will be dealt with swiftly and severely.

3. Chewing gum is always prohibited, before and after rehearsal in the Band Room and on the Practice Field.
4. Individual preparation of music and drill is essential to our success. **PRACTICE DAILY!**
5. Always have your music, drill, and a pencil for rehearsals. Please have water for every practice, even in the cold weather.
6. Cooperation with others makes a group from individuals.
7. Attempt to adjust quickly to changing or unexpected situations.
8. Show your loyalty to the group in all that you say and do.

EARLY IS ON TIME, ON TIME IS LATE, LATE IS INEXCUSABLE!

Attendance Policies

Students are required to attend all rehearsals and performances. Every member is an integral part of the band. The success of the band depends upon each individual member. In the case of illness; if you are well enough to be in school, you are well enough to be at practice.

For a student to be officially excused from a rehearsal or performance, he or she must notify Mr. Kelly **IN WRITING WITH A PARENT'S SIGNATURE** a week prior to the scheduled event. In the case of an emergency, the student must notify Mr. Kelly once he or she has returned to school. Acceptable excused absences are serious illness, religious obligations and the death of a family member.

Two or more absences may result the pulling out from of a performance.

Students with chronic "late problems" will be dealt with in a similar manner.

Performances

The Marching Mountaineers perform at all WOHS football games, various competitions, The United States Scholastic Band Association (USSBA) Championships and The West Orange St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Attendance is mandatory to all performances.

Specific schedules for competition days will not be known usually till the week of the performance. Please come to the band room on the Monday before a competition to get "This Week's Schedule."

Instruments

The instrument you play, whether it's your own or the school's, represents a considerable investment. All students are expected to maintain their instrument in top playing condition. Successful fulfillment of the below listed requirements are vital if we are to achieve the musical excellence to which we aspire. Failure to do so will not only hurt your individual performance, but it will also hurt the entire band. Should a problem exist, please bring it to the attention of Mr. Kelly or Ms. McClure as soon as possible.

If you play immediately after eating be sure to brush your teeth or at least rinse out your mouth with water. This will decrease the accumulation of "gunk" in the instrument and mouthpiece. This practice will also minimize sticky valves and prolong pad life.

School Owned Instruments - Using a school instrument is a privilege, not a right. These instruments will be maintained and respected as if they were your own. You are responsible for the return of the instrument in the same condition as it was received. If you damage or abuse it, you will pay for the repair of the instrument.

All students using a school owned instrument must fill out a loan contract and pay a \$35.00 rental fee.

Storage - All instruments are to be kept in its proper place. Any instrument found not in its proper home will be confiscated. If this becomes a chronic problem, students may lose their locker privilege.

Woodwinds

All instruments must have correctly functioning key mechanisms and pads which "seat" properly. Dry the bore of your instrument after each playing session. This will double the life of your pads. A small paint brush is perfect for periodically dusting key mechanisms. Dust and oil make great glue if left undisturbed.

Flute & Piccolo

A Cleaning rod and cloth (an old handkerchief works well) are required. Wipe the bore of your instrument each time you finish a playing session. Check the position of the head joint cork periodically. This will save much intonation misery.

Clarinets & Saxophones

All players must have a minimum of two good reeds in their cases at all times. Also, have a container of cork grease and keep corks lubricated. Have a swab and use it. Mouthpieces should be washed frequently with soap and luke warm water.

Brasses

All instruments must have slides that move easily! Regular lubrication with slide lubricant or petroleum jelly and daily moving of each slide will keep each slide easily adjustable. Each player should have a supply of valve oil and slide lubricant in their case. Valves should always be kept clean, well oiled and free moving. All trumpets should have, wherever possible, a third valve slide ring. All instruments should be cleaned with lukewarm water and a mild detergent every four to six weeks. An appropriate cleaning snake is vital for this purpose. Mouthpieces should be cleaned every week. All instruments should be polished for EVERY PERFORMANCE!

Percussion & Guard

Percussionists and Color Guard members will have instructions specific to their area. Please consult your instructor for specific answers.

Other Equipment

Every musician should have the following for every rehearsal:

1. a sharpened pencil
2. all music in plastic sheets, in a three-ring binder
3. your drill and dot book

Rehearsals

Objective - The principal reason for rehearsal is the perfection of the marching and musical performance. Through this practice comes the learning and improvement of our musical skills. The task of preparing a truly musical performance is not easy and requires concentrated work from everyone, whether it is two months or two days before a performance.

Warming Up - When you arrive to the rehearsal, you should give yourself a few minutes so warm up on your own. The playing of long tones, scales, and lips slurs is the best way to condition yourself for playing. Do not blast or blat or attempt to use this time for social hour. Warm up ceases when either Mr. Kelly, another staff member or one of the drum majors steps on the podium.

Promptness - All students are expected to be in their seats with instruments ready to play at the announced time. For example, a 8:00 am rehearsal does not mean getting out of the car at 8:00 am; it means being in your seat or on the field ready to rehearse at 8:00 am.

Band Camp

Prior to the opening week of school, the entire band goes away for a week of concentrated rehearsals. Included in the activities of the week are the introduction/review of all marching fundamentals, drill instruction, as well as music rehearsal. Attendance at Band Camp is **MANDATORY!** Those who miss even a portion of camp will find themselves seriously behind. Permission forms and fees must be in ASAP. If there are any problems, please see Mr. Kelly or Ms. McClure immediately.

Travel Procedures

When traveling, a specific bus time will be given. All students are expected to report at the designated time in half-uniform. Half-uniform consists of uniform pants, shoes, dark colored under garment, and black socks with all other part hung in a garment bag. Shakos should remain in the shako boxes. Before exiting the bus, all students should always be in **full uniform** ready for the performance.

All members are expected to follow all rules for behavior. Any infraction while on the bus will result in the student being suspended from traveling with the band for two weeks. During this suspension, the student's parents will be responsible for getting the performer to and from all performances. A "Travel Suspension" is not an excuse to miss any performance.

Inclement Weather

Do not assume that any rehearsal or performance is canceled. If it is possible to rehearse outdoors, we will. Always check with a drum major, your section leader or Mr. Kelly's voicemail (973-669-5301 x238) if there are any questions.

Uniform Information

The acquisition of our uniforms was the result of countless hours of work and the support of the parents, administrators, and the board of education. These uniforms are of the highest quality and with proper care, will last many years. The wearing of the uniform is a privilege, and with that privilege comes responsibility. The same pride and dedication with which we enter the performance field needs to be reflected in the care of the uniform. Those who do not care for the uniform properly will quickly lose the privilege of wearing it.

- With the exception of water, there will be no eating or drinking in uniform.
- The uniform is to be worn properly at all times.
- Uniforms are to be dry cleaned only! A number of Dry Cleaning businesses in town have offered to clean our uniforms at a discount. Please use their services!
- Do not alter them in any way.
- Wet uniforms should be hung and air-dried.
- NO UNIFORM PART SHOULD EVER GO IN THE WASHER OR DRYER!**

Replacement costs for individual parts of the uniform are very expensive. Should you damage or lose any portion of the uniform, you will pay for the replacement of it.

Replacement Costs:

Coat-\$200.00 Shako- \$75.00 Trouser-\$150.00

Every pair of gloves will cost \$3.00.

WOHS MUSIC BOOSTERS

The West Orange High School Music Boosters are a very active group of parents that support the activities of all the music students of WOHS. All parents are encouraged to be a part of this vital group. Without their support, many important elements of the program would not be possible.

Please check www.WOHSMUSIC.org for more information.

FACT SHEET FOR NEW MARCHING BAND PARENTS

- Students should be at all rehearsals early. They should allow enough time to get their instrument ready to play at the scheduled time.
- Remember to bring sunscreen and extra water when the weather dictates.
- For games and competitions students should bring their t-shirts and uniforms. Time will be given to change into them.
- Students are usually given a light meal by the boosters on competition days, such as pizza or sandwiches. However, it's a good idea to bring a snack to supplement the meal if your child doesn't care for the meal.
- Students may choose to bring a small amount of money for the concession stand at football games and competitions.
- Competition days are very long. Frequently, the busses do not return to school till 11:00, midnight, or later. It depends on our step off time.
- Hand warmers are helpful on cold nights. Kids can keep them in their uniform pockets.
- Band grams, candy grams, and DVDs are usually available to purchase at the competitions. Band grams are messages that can be announced as our band marches out and candy grams are bags of candy that will be delivered to your child after they compete.
- Uniforms **MUST** be dry cleaned. How often depends on the weather and turf conditions. They should be cleaned as needed, *at least twice* during the season and once when the season is over. Emerald Cleaners on Pleasant Valley Way has offered this service for \$6.00 or you can use a cleaners of your choice. Uniforms are very expensive and need to be taken care of.
- Check the music booster web site, www.wohsmusic.org often for new information. There is also a link to the YEA site for competition step off times and results.