

2023-2024



Handbook

A Note From Your Directors

Welcome to the 2023 – 2024 Mishawaka High School Band! We are ready for another fantastic year together and cannot wait to get started with marching band.

Please take time to read through this handbook to find important dates, expectations, grading procedures, dress requirements, etc. Keep the handbook around for future reference! There is also a PDF copy on our website.

We do our best to get you dates very far in advance. Please help us by getting these dates in your personal and/or family calendars.

We hope you enjoy your summer break, and we are excited to see you again at band camp!

Mr. Chamberlin, Mr. Roberts

chamberlinka@mishawaka.k12.in.us

robertsb@mishawaka.k12.in.us

Band Office (574) 254-7300 ex: 7380

Band Camp

We will have daily rehearsals for two weeks to prepare for the fall marching season at Mishawaka High School beginning on Monday, July 31st from 8:00 am until 12:30 pm (see calendar). These are *required* for participation in the Mishawaka High School Band. It is extremely important to have everyone at these early rehearsals to prepare for our fall marching band performances. If you must miss a practice for any *excusable* reason, it is your responsibility to either call or email us as soon as possible.

Once the school year begins, the Monday and Wednesday evening rehearsals are also required (see Grading Procedures and Important Dates).

We understand that some band members will be Dancers and Color Guard members. Please remember that your attendance at these practices is also part of your participation grade in band. During band class, you will be expected to play your band instrument.

All band members are expected to be at Band Camp and these rehearsals with the exception of football players and varsity cheerleaders. Students in other sports will share practice time with the band. Other sports: Tennis, cross country, volleyball or soccer, provide us with a copy of your practice schedule so that we know when to expect you at band practice. Communicate! If you have questions about your specific situation, reach out to Mr. Chamberlin. **Please email Mr. Chamberlin ASAP to let him know what fall sport or activity you are participating in.**

Band Camp

(Continued)

To be ordered at Band Camp – Cash or *Checks made out to Mishawaka High School Band*

- Black Marching Band Shoes \$35
 - Every person marching needs a pair of these specific marching shoes. If you have a pair from last year that still fits, you're good to go. If you would like to use a pair of used shoes from our collection, you can do that.

- Flip Folder/Lyre for your marching music - \$15
 - We have had trouble with individuals buying these online (they are confusing and different for each instrument). We will purchase these for all freshmen, and you can buy them from us at camp. If you still have yours from last year, you're good to go. If you want to order a new one, please let Mr. C know ASAP.

- Band Shirt – FREE!
 - Thanks to our shirt sponsors! Please provide your size on the order form. If you want an extra shirt, they are \$10 each.
 - We would like everyone (all grades) to put their shirt size on the order form. Everyone is getting a new shirt.

A Few Rules/Reminders

- ❖ Please remember that the high school will have been cleaned for the new school year. We will meet at Alumni Plaza and often use the loading dock for entry to the building. Stay in the music area. There will be areas of the building which are “off limits” due to cleaning and construction. Please help to keep the building and grounds clean. Pick up after yourself!
- ❖ You will want to drink lots of water before and during the rehearsals. Bring your own water bottle or jug that will hold lots of water and keep it cold. No food, gum or drink is allowed in any indoor rehearsal area. Our band booster parents will provide a breakfast bar if you need one, a snack at 10:00am, and water refills.
- ❖ Summer clothing should be worn, but it must be acceptable and follow the MHS rules. Always wear athletic type shoes – no flip flops, slides, sandals, Crocs, etc! This is for your own safety and the ability to march well.
- ❖ Please post the attached band calendar for 2023-2024 on your bulletin board at home and refer to it throughout the school year. Also, give your parents and employer a copy. Employers will excuse you for rehearsals and performances if you inform them far enough in advance. Remember, we cannot excuse you from a band event due to work. This is a co-curricular class (not extracurricular).

Grading Procedures

- If a student must miss a rehearsal or performance, the band director **must receive a note, phone call or email from the parent** one day in advance for rehearsals and two weeks in advance for performances describing why the student will be absent from the rehearsal or event.
 - The band director will determine whether the absence is excused. Generally, the only excuses will be for illness or death in the family, a required religious observance, or any other excuse which would be acceptable to excuse a student from classes at MHS.
 - Work is *not* considered a valid excuse for missing any required rehearsal or event. Don't surprise them. Keep them informed in advance.
 - Students will be required to complete a make-up assignment for an excused absence from any performance. This will be a playing test. If the band directors determine that a requested absence is unexcused, the parent will be notified as soon as possible. A make-up assignment will not be offered for an unexcused absence.
 - All public performances representing Mishawaka HS regardless of location or time of day are considered a major graded event. This includes all concerts, community events, adjudicated ISSMA contests and invitational events.
- Unexcused Performance Absence** – student will receive a zero for the large concert assignment in the grade book
- Second Unexcused Performance Absence** – possible dismissal from band and loss of credit
- A student's failure to participate, not having the proper equipment, being late for rehearsals or performances, or failing to exhibit proper behavior will also result in a lower grade.
 - Students will be required to perform playing tests on their instrument as part of their grade. The remainder of their grade will be based on class participation.

Dress Requirements

Unless otherwise informed by the band directors, band members should follow these requirements. Don't wait until the last minute to get these items.

Marching Band

Uniform supplied by the school, plain black socks (purchase on your own), black marching style shoes (must be purchased or borrowed from MHS), no visible jewelry/bracelets, hair must be up inside the hat.

Concert Band, Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble

“Concert Black” – All black dress clothes head-to-toe
Everyone needs to be wearing clothes that will allow them to sit properly while performing with the band.

Basketball Pep Band

Maroon pep band shirt and blue or black jeans
(We might do a special Pep Band shirt - TBD)

May Festival and Commencement

Formal dress clothes
Does not need to be all black

Jazz Ensemble

All black dress clothes including dress shoes and socks.
Everyone needs to be wearing clothes that will allow them to sit properly while performing with the band.

Winter Pep Band

The Winter Pep Band will take place during the winter months. Dates are not chosen until after marching season. Dates will be distributed to interested students. Winter Pep Band is a voluntary activity, and we have a great incentive for you to be involved.

Our wonderful Band Boosters will help to feed the Pep Band members dinner before every game!

We will meet early to eat and have a short rehearsal before each game. We will perform at ~12 events in the winter months (mostly basketball games). If you choose to participate in this voluntary activity, you will be committing to all 12 games. If you must miss a game, please let us know in advance so we can make accommodations.

The goal of this format is to make the Winter Pep Band strong, consistent, and fun for the dedicated “Pep Band-ers” who love being at the games. We will help provide the best game atmosphere in the NLC!

Important Dates

July 31 – August 4 and August 7 - 11 Band Camp 8:00am – 12:30pm

August 5 (Saturday) Band Car Wash 10:00am – 1:00pm Lunch provided

****ALL MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY EVENING REHEARSALS****

6:30pm – 8:30pm Beginning August 14 and 16 (we have a game on the 18th!!)

Last regular rehearsal on September 20

We are tentatively adding rehearsals on October 4 and 11 to prepare for Homecoming and Senior Night games

August 18 (Friday) Home Game vs Marian – 5:30pm arrival, 7:00pm game

September 8 (Friday) Home Game vs Goshen – 5:30pm arrival, 7:00pm game

September 22 (Friday) Home Game vs Warsaw – 5:30pm arrival, 7:00pm game

September 23 (Saturday) ISSMA Festival Class Marching Contest –

Crown Point, Time TBA (this is one week earlier than previous years)

October 6 (Friday) Home Game vs Concord - 5:30pm arrival, 7:00pm game

October 13 (Friday) Home Game vs Concord - 5:30pm arrival, 7:00pm game

December 5 (Tuesday) Winter Band Concert – 7:00pm MHS Auditorium

January 27 (Saturday) ISSMA Solo and Ensemble Contest - NorthWood HS –
Times TBA

February 24 (Saturday) ISSMA State Solo and Ensemble Contest (only for students who qualify) - Indianapolis

March 2 (Saturday) ISSMA Jazz Contest (only for Jazz Ensemble members)

April 11 (Thursday) Spring Band Concert – 7:00pm MHS Auditorium

April 19 or 20 ISSMA Organizational Contest – Times TBA – Local site

May 24 (Friday) May Festival of Fine Arts – 7:00pm MHS East Gym

May 27 (Monday) Memorial Day Parade – Morning, Meet at MHS

First or Second Sunday in June - Graduation - for Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band members - The specific date had not been determined when this calendar was published.

MHS Band Boosters

Please consider volunteering with the
Band Boosters! We can't survive
without your help.

The Boosters help us in the following ways:

Band Camp snacks, water, uniforms
Football games water, spirit wear sales
Fundraising
Concert Help
Senior Banquet
and more 😊

Send an email to
mishawakahsbandboosters@gmail.com to be
added to their email list.

More information will be coming your way.

Please look for us at schedule pickup.
We would love to keep you informed on
ways to support the MHS Band. Thanks!

Stay Connected

Stay up to date with MHS Band information by liking the band's Facebook page or following us on Twitter and Instagram!



Also be sure to check out our website.

Mishawakabands.com



Sign up here for text alerts throughout the year

For Students Only

Text @7ag2k4 to the number 81010

We will use Skyward Messenger (email) for parent communication.