

Little Miami High School

Marching Band Handbook

Director, Tabitha Smith

Assistant Director, Carolyn Petty

The purpose of this handbook is to acquaint band personnel and parents with all aspects of membership in the band. Read and keep this handbook. It is my hope that the information included will make participation more enjoyable and rewarding.

The Panther band is a dancing band similar in style to the Ohio University Marching 110.

OUR BAND CAMP, PRACTICES, AND PERFORMANCES ARE EXTREMELY DEMANDING AND PHYSICAL. STUDENTS MUST BE PHYSICALLY PREPARED FOR THE DEMANDS OF OUR STYLE OF MARCHING BAND. STUDENTS NEED TO BE WELL HYDRATED AT ALL TIMES. WE PERFORM SEVERAL DIFFERENT SHOWS IN A SEASON WHICH REQUIRES US TO LEARN MANY FIELD DRILLS AND MEMORIZE FIFTEEN TO TWENTY SONGS. IF A STUDENT IS PHYSICALLY UNABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN PRACTICE AND PERFORMANCE 95% OF THE TIME, THEN THEY SHOULD NOT CONSIDER MARCHING BAND.

All efforts are directed toward the goal of providing a quality musical and physical experience for every student. The Panther Band, therefore, operates upon the principle that everyone will strive to do his or her best to present a truly class act to the public and to their peers. This requires much cooperation, effort, and trust. Therefore, in this spirit, the following information and guidelines will assist students and parents in obtaining the best results possible.

Marching band is an important facet of our school and community, meeting at regularly scheduled rehearsals and performing in several football games, parades and band festivals. The Little Miami Marching Band has a long and proud tradition, which has been developed by the hard work and dedication of many students, parents, and directors through the years. The experiences encountered and the friendships developed are rewarding and last a lifetime.

We want to thank you all in advance for your dedication and hard work that we know you are going to put in to make our marching band great!

Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Petty

Requirements for Participation

***New to Marching Band 2020** – Starting in July 2020, marching band will be strictly an extra-curricular activity. After 2 seasons of marching band, a student may apply for a PE waiver. Students must let directors know their freshman year or first year they plan to participate in marching band for PE waiver. Students opting for the PE waiver must fulfill all requirements stated in the marching band handbook for 2 seasons before a director will sign off on their PE option form. The marching band season is from band camp (July) to Memorial Day parade (May). Students must participate for 2 complete seasons before they can receive the PE waiver. Students will be required to participate in all rehearsals, parades, festivals and football games. Please turn in the form only after 2 years have been completed. Do not turn a form in for each year.

Since marching band will be strictly extra-curricular, there will be a try-out process for all students interested in participating. Students will be required to rehearse and perform physically demanding marching and dance routines. Students will be required to have a physical on file with the director before being able to participate in the first day of band camp. Any student that has no experience in band will not be able to join marching band.

Directors will use a point system to determine if a student will participate weekly in marching band performances. Directors will use this point system to determine whether a student completes all requirements for PE waiver.

If a student joins marching band and then quits after any particular year, that student will not be allowed to rejoin the marching band. This would greatly affect the instrumentation of the ensemble.

Attendance

Attendance at all rehearsals and performances is **mandatory** for all members of the marching band. When an absence occurs, the development of the ensemble is greatly impacted. If a member of the marching band has a conflict, a conflict sheet must be completed and submitted to the director two weeks in advance. **Filling out a conflict sheet does not automatically excuse an absence.**

An excused absence can only be obtained when requested in advance and approved in writing or verbally by the director. Legitimate excuses are:

- Serious personal illness in which a student is physically unable to attend rehearsals. The student or parent must notify the director prior to rehearsal by calling 899-3781 x20467, emailing tsmith@lmsdoh.org or by sending a text through Remind.
- Death, serious illness or weddings in the **immediate family**. Notify the director immediately and complete a conflict sheet.
- If a student is involved in a fall, winter, or spring sport they must provide a schedule/calendar as soon as possible. Telling the director on the day of a rehearsal that they have a game or practice is unacceptable. Students should also divide the amount of time equally for both the sport and band.

ABSENCES DUE TO WORK, STUDYING/SCHOOL WORK, CONCERTS, DOCTOR APPOINTMENTS, INTERNSHIPS, DRIVER'S ED, AND OTHER PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITIES, WILL NOT BE EXCUSED.

Point System for Attendance at Marching Band Rehearsals

Students receive points for attendance at each rehearsal throughout the season. With 3 practices a week, students must earn a minimum of 21 points, and must earn a minimum of 13 points when there are only 2 practices in a week. Students who do not meet the minimum point requirement will not be permitted to perform at the next event whether a game, parade or band festival.

Rehearsal points are awarded as follows:

- Present at whole rehearsal = 10 points
- Excused absence = 5 points for rehearsal
- Unexcused absence = 0 points for rehearsal
- Unexcused/Excused Tardy/Early Release
 - Less than 30 minutes = 7 points for rehearsal
 - More than 30 minutes = 5 points for rehearsal
- Sitting out during rehearsal
 - Less than 10 minutes = no penalty
 - 10-30 minutes = 7 points for rehearsal
 - 30 or more minutes = 5 points for rehearsal

Unexcused absence from a performance will result in the student not participating in the next performance, whether it is in the same week or the following week.

If a student misses two weeks of performances due to penalties, the directors will have the option to move the student's placement in the block for the rest of the season or be removed from the band.

Fees

Parents will be given a payment plan sheet from the booster treasurer at the marching band informational meeting. This sheet will inform parents in detail when money will be due. **ALL FEES MUST BE PAID BY THE FIRST DAY OF BAND CAMP.** There will be no exceptions. If conflicts arise, then please inform the director or the booster treasurer. Payments can be made to the band boosters at any time throughout the summer and school year. If fees are not paid by the first day of band camp, students will not be allowed to participate unless communication has been made to the director/band booster treasurer.

Uniforms and Equipment

The Little Miami Marching Band takes pride in looking uniform. The uniform policy is strict and must be followed at all times. We respect the uniform and the band by following the guidelines included in this handbook. Inspections will take place before every performance. Section Leaders will inspect their sections and the band president and vice president will inspect the section leaders.

General Uniform Requirements

- You must give our uniforms the best care at all times.
- You will turn in your uniform after each performance. They must be hung properly on the hanger.
- Write your name in your Dinkles.
- Keep your gloves clean, shoes polished, and your instrument shiny.
- Any hair extending beyond the uniform collar or bangs in the face, whether male or female, must be pinned up. Hair must be of a natural color. No blue, pink, purple, etc. is allowed.
- No facial hair or face paint of any kind is allowed as part of our uniform appearance.
- NO JEWELRY OF ANY KIND will be worn with the uniform.
- Black socks will be worn at every performance. You will not march if you do not have the correct length black socks (see below).
- The current senior designed black band shirt will be worn under the band jacket. Sleeveless shirts, tank tops or camisoles are not allowed.

Summer Uniform

- Black band shorts
- Green Panther Band polo shirt
- Short black socks
- Dinkles
- All hair pulled back, out of face and behind the shoulders.

Full Uniform

- Black band shorts
- Current year black band shirt
- Long black socks (crew-length or longer)
- Clean white gloves
- Dinkles
- Uniform pants
- Uniform jacket
- Hat
- Plume
- All hair pulled back, and into the hat

Equipment

Students using school owned instruments will be required to fill out an instrument agreement form. These instruments are on loan to you at a **non-refundable charge of \$85**. Cost of unusual wear or damage to a school-owned instrument is the responsibility of the student to whom it is issued. Fees will be assessed by the director and booster treasurer for lost or damaged equipment. Instruments will be checked in at the end of the marching season, and re-issued if necessary. Take precautions to maintain your instrument by regularly cleaning, oiling, and greasing when applicable.

School instruments consist primarily of percussion, sousaphones, tubas, baritones, French horns, mellophones, bass clarinets, and bari saxes. All other instruments are the student/parents' responsibility.

Rules for Conduct

"Pride" in a high-class organization requires the effort of each individual. Band members are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times. Whether in the stands or on a trip, you represent not only the band, but also Little Miami High School.

General Rules

- Marching band students will be required to have a physical before the first day of band camp.
- No food or drinks in the band room except during band camp.
- No cell phones are permitted during rehearsals or performances/games. They must be kept in the student's band locker until after rehearsal, or can be given to a chaperone while at games and performances. Cell phones in use during performances or rehearsals will be confiscated until rehearsal or event is over.
- Carry out instructions from the directors and student leaders without hesitation or disrespectful responses.
- Do not play out of turn or "doodle" during rehearsals, performances, or while in the stands at games.
- No public displays of affection at any time.
- Treat fellow band members with respect and friendship.
- No cursing during rehearsals, performances, or any time while in uniform, including any uniform set by the directors.
- Insubordination from any student will result in removal from the marching band.

Rules for Rehearsal

- Wear comfortable clothing and gym shoes to rehearsals. **NO BARE FEET, FLIP FLOPS, OR DINKLES!**
- Always bring your instrument, required music, drill charts, and a pencil.
- Always rehearse in the same manner you would perform. Never expect it all to come together the day of the performance.
- Rehearsals are rarely cancelled due to inclement weather. If the weather is bad, we will rehearse inside.
- Talking on the field must be kept at a minimum. When the band is stopped, immediately stop playing and listen to instructions.

Rules for Performances

Organization is the key to a good band. At football/basketball games the band is a vital part of school spirit. Be alert. Things happen quickly and you should be prepared to play the fight song or First Down cheer after each Panther score or first down.

- Each student should support the team and participate in the cheers during the games.
- Band members will show respect and demonstrate sportsman-like conduct to visiting teams and bands.
- Abusive language will not be tolerated.
- Stay in full uniform at all times. No ball caps or other accessories are permitted.
- Proper conduct and good sportsmanship is expected at all times.
- We are a band and therefore we will SIT together as a band. Only band members are allowed in our section of the bleachers. Do not invite other friends or your parents to sit in the band section. Former band students will not be allowed to sit with the band at football or basketball games unless they have received permission from a director. Like instruments should always sit together; ie, trumpets should sit together, low brass together, etc.
- Do not leave the bandstands without the director's permission.

- When we play, we will **ALL PLAY!**
- No experimenting with others' instruments!
- Refreshment breaks come in the first or third quarters. Bring Money!
- Take care of your instrument to prevent damage.
- Make the best impression you can. Remember, you are wearing a Little Miami uniform, which represents our school and community.
- Be back when there are 2 minutes on the first/third quarter clock. We will play between quarters.

Rules for Travel

- At the beginning of the season, you will sign a bus list. This will be your traveling assignment for the year. Don't ask to change bus assignments.
- While on the bus, the director/chaperone is in direct charge. You must observe all rules in order to assure a safe trip.
- Be on time. We will leave at the designated time **with or without** you.
- No food or drinks will be allowed on the bus unless given permission by the director or bus driver.
- Listen to the bus driver and chaperones.
- Be silent when crossing railroad tracks.
- Use moderation when talking and singing.
- Hands and arms must remain inside the bus at all times.
- Stay seated when the bus is moving.
- Reserve the front and rear seats for chaperons and directors.
- Do not board or load equipment on the bus until asked to do so.
- Stay on the bus until asked to unload.
- Leave windows up when leaving away football games unless told otherwise.
- Take care of your uniform as instructed.
- Absolutely no exiting from the back door of the bus. Exiting from the back of the bus is for emergencies only.
- Don't forget to thank the bus driver and chaperones for their assistance in making our trip safe.
- All students must travel to and from all activities on the bus.
- In the event you need to go home with your parents, your parent(s) (in person) must sign you out with the head chaperone of your bus.
- You will not be permitted to go home from a performance with other students or other students' parents.

Consequences

In order to be successful, we need everyone to work together. This is the only way we can achieve our goals. If you are constantly late, have multiple absences, talk excessively during rehearsals, use profanity or do anything that detracts from our band, you may not march in certain performances or you may be removed from the organization. Keep in mind, negative behavior not only hurts you but our band as well and if you are doing these things, band is probably not for you.

The following offenses will cause you to miss our next performance:

- Excessive tardiness.
- Unexcused or excused absences from rehearsals or scheduled performances.
- Inappropriate language.
- Insubordination, lack of cooperation with the directors.
- Suspension from school.
- Any other offensive action the directors feel is inappropriate.

The following offenses will lead to serious consequences given by the administration.

- Smoking, or possession of, any illegal substances during a band function.
- Involvement with any chemical substance at a band function.
- Destruction of school or private property.
- Not obeying the rules set forth by the directors.
- Physical action against another student or staff member.
- Any other offensive action the directors feel is inappropriate.

Anyone not willing to abide by the rules in the marching band and high school handbooks will not be allowed to perform or will be removed from the ensemble. All rules in the Little Miami High School Student Handbook apply to the marching band as well.

Guidelines for Parents and Alumni

Parents/alumni that are not designated/assigned chaperones are not permitted on or anywhere near the practice field/grass during camp or practices. Parents/alumni that are not designated/assigned chaperones are not permitted in the band room or rehearsal rooms during camp or practices. Practices will be closed to the public unless permission has been given by a director. Only designated/assigned chaperones are permitted to be with the band during football games, parades and festivals and rehearsals. The purpose for these rules is to stop interruptions and distractions during our rehearsals. The directors and the students must be fully focused so that we can have a successful band program.

For safety reasons, parents/alumni that are not designated/assigned chaperones are not permitted to give any student anything such as Gatorade, snacks, medications, etc. Even designated chaperones are not permitted to give medications. Students with asthma are allowed to carry an inhaler on them. The band boosters provide water, Gatorade and snacks if students should need something.

If parents/alumni cannot follow the rules above, the participating band member will not be allowed to participate for as long as the rules are being broken. Students will be required to sit out of rehearsals and stand on the sideline at performances in uniform.

Parents should always be a positive support system for the band and for the directors. Parents are to set a positive example for all of our students. Please do not gossip or create problems that cause turmoil for the band and the directors. This greatly detracts from the positive memories that our marching band children should take from their experience in being in marching band. If you, as a parent, have a question or concern, you should approach the directors directly so that any issues can be addressed immediately. Directors cannot solve problems when parents do not talk to the director one on one. Almost all issues can be resolved easily if there is direct communication from the parent to the director. Parents need to understand that our marching band is extremely rigorous and physically demanding. It is a huge time commitment so proper planning is critical. If parents cannot agree/adhere to the above statements, then perhaps marching band is not a good fit for their child/children.

Please sign this portion and return to the student secretary.

Signature

I have read and understand all of the contents of the 2021-2022 Little Miami Marching Band Handbook.

Instrument

Printed Student Name

Printed Parent Name

Date

Student Signature

Parent Signature

Date