

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 AND PRACTICES 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 DO MARCHING BAND.

All efforts are directed toward the goal of providing a quality musical, educational and cultural program 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 educational 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.



Attendance

Attendance to all rehearsals and performances is **mandatory** for all members of the marching band. 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. It is important that rehearsals and performances have 100% attendance. When an absence occurs, the development of the ensemble is greatly impacted. **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:

- 1) Serious personal illness in which a student is physically unable to attend rehearsals. If possible notify the director prior to rehearsal. 899-3781 x20467. You can also send a text through Remind.
- 2) Death, serious illness or weddings in the **immediate family**. Notify the director immediately and complete a conflict sheet.

ABSENCES DUE TO WORK, STUDYING, CONCERTS, DOCTOR APPOINTMENTS, INTERNSHIP, AND OTHER PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITIES, WILL NOT BE EXCUSED.

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 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.

One unexcused absence will result in the loss of 3rd quarter break and not performing in the next event. If a student misses 2 practices in a week, even though excused, they will not be permitted to perform in that week's event.

If a student joins marching band and then quits after any particular year, that student will not be allowed rejoin the marching band. This would greatly affect the instrumentation of the ensemble and generally would not be fair to other members of the ensemble who are truly committed.

Point System for Attendance at Marching Band Rehearsals

- Present at whole rehearsal = 10 points
- Excused absence = 5 points for rehearsal
- Unexcused absence = 0 points for rehearsal
- Excused Tardy/Early Release
 - Less than 30 minutes = 8 points for rehearsal
 - More than 30 minutes = 6 points for rehearsal
- Unexcused Tardy/Early Release
 - Less than 30 minutes = 6 points for rehearsal
 - More than 30 minutes = 4 points for rehearsal
- Sitting out during rehearsal
 - Less than 10 minutes = no penalty
 - 10-30 minutes = 8 points for rehearsal
 - 30 or more minutes = 6 points for rehearsal

With 3 practices a week, students must earn a minimum of 21 points in order to perform that Friday/Saturday. If there are only 2 practices that week, students must earn a minimum of 13 points in order to perform that Friday/Saturday.

Unexcused absence from any performance will result in the student not being allowed to perform the following week.

If a student misses out on two weeks of performances due to penalties, the directors will have the option to move student placement in the block for the rest of the season. A 3rd performance missed due to penalties will result in removal from the block for the remainder of the season.

Uniforms

1. You must give our uniforms the best care at all times.
2. You will turn in your uniform after each performance. They must be hung properly.
3. Have your name in your shoes. It sounds funny, but it works.
4. Keep your gloves clean, shoes polished, and your instrument shiny.
5. **Any hair extending beyond the uniform collar, whether male or female, must be pinned up or tucked under your hat. Hair must be of a natural color. No blue, pink, purple, etc. is allowed.**
6. **No facial hair is allowed** as part of our uniform appearance.
7. **NO JEWELRY OF ANY KIND** is to be worn with the uniform.
8. Inspections will take place before every performance. Section Leaders will inspect their sections and directors will inspect Section Leaders.
9. **BLACK SOCKS MUST BE WORN AT EVERY PERFORMANCE.** You will not march if you do not have black socks. These socks must be **crew-length** or longer.
10. The current senior designed black band shirt must be worn under the band jacket. **NO** sleeveless shirts, tank tops or camisoles are allowed.
11. You will be changing in and out of your band uniform in front of others. Please wear the summer uniform shorts under your band pants. Do not wear jeans or pajama pants that will hang below the pant leg.

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 \$50**. 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 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.

Football Games & Basketball Games

1. 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.
2. Stay in full uniform at all times. No ball caps or other accessories are permitted.
3. 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 to sit in the band section. Former band students will not be allowed to sit with the band at football or basketball games. Like instruments should always sit together; ie, trumpets should sit together, low brass together, etc.**
4. When we play, we will **ALL PLAY!**
5. No experimenting with others' instruments!
6. **Do not leave the bandstands without the director's permission.**
7. Refreshment breaks come in the third quarter. Bring Money!
8. Take care of your instrument to prevent damage.
9. Make the best impression you can. Remember, you are wearing a Little Miami uniform, which represents our school and community.
10. Be back when there are 2 minutes on the third quarter clock. We play between the third and fourth quarters.

Behavior

1. Proper conduct and good sportsmanship are expected at all times.
2. Students, at all times, will conduct themselves according to the Little Miami High School Handbook. All school rules are enforced.
3. Public displays of affection **will not be tolerated** at any time.

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 Little Miami High School.

1. Each student should support the team and participate in the cheers during the games.
2. Band members will show respect and demonstrate sportsman-like conduct to visiting teams and bands.
3. Carry out instructions from the directors, field commanders, and student leaders without hesitation or disrespectful responses. Talking on the field must be kept at a minimum. When the band is stopped, immediately stop playing and listen to instructions.
4. Treat fellow band members with respect and friendship.
5. Do not play out of turn or “doodle” during rehearsals, performances, or while in the stands at games.
6. Abusive language will not be tolerated and sportsman-like conduct is expected.
7. All members are to remain in the stands for the entire game.

Travel Rules

1. At the beginning of the season, you will sign a bus list. This will be your traveling assignment for the year. While on the bus, the chaperon is in direct charge. You must observe all rules in order to assure a safe trip.
2. Be on time. We will leave at the designated time **with or without** you.
3. **No food or drinks** will be allowed on the bus unless given permission by the director or bus driver.
4. **Listen to the bus driver and chaperons.**
5. Be **silent** when crossing railroad tracks.
6. Use moderation when talking and singing.
7. Hands and arms must remain inside the bus at all times.
8. Stay seated when the bus is moving.
9. Reserve the front and rear seats for chaperons.
10. Do not board or load equipment on the bus until asked to do so.
11. Stay on the bus until asked to unload.
12. Leave windows up when leaving away football games unless told otherwise.
13. Take care of your uniform as instructed.
14. **Absolutely no exiting from the back door of the bus.** Exiting from the back of the bus is for emergencies only.
15. Don't ask to change bus assignments.
16. Don't forget to thank the bus driver and chaperons for their assistance in making our trip safe.
17. All students must travel **to and from** all activities on the bus.
18. 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.
19. You will not be permitted to go home from a performance with other students or other students parents'.

General Rules

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.

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. Cell phones will be confiscated until after rehearsal.

Consequences

1. 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, chew gum, use profanity or do anything that detracts from our band, you may not march in certain performances or you may be asked to leave 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.

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

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

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

- a) Smoking or possession of, cigarettes during a band function.
- b) Involvement with any chemical substance at a band function.
- c) Destruction of school or private property.
- d) Not obeying the rules set forth by the directors on any trip.
- e) Physical action against another student or staff member.
- f) 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 and could be removed from the ensemble. All rules in the Little Miami High School Student Handbook apply to the marching band as well.

Chaperones/Parents

BAND CAMP AND REGULAR SEASON PRACTICE RULES:

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.

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.

Any person that is not a designated/assigned chaperone must park and/or sit on the opposite side of the parking lot closest to the school if they would like to view practice. The directors prefer that no outside parties view practice.

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.

If parents/alumni cannot follow these rules, 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.

Only designated/assigned chaperones are permitted to be with the band during football games, parades and festivals and rehearsals.

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.

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.

Marching band members are required to participate in pep band. Attendance at pep band games will be part of the marching band grade. A schedule of basketball games will be given to students as soon as it becomes available.

All students participating in marching band must sign up for concert or symphonic band. This is a requirement for all marching band students. If you have questions, please see Mrs. Smith on an individual basis.

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

Mrs. Smith

Please sign the portion below and return to the student secretary.

Signature

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

Instrument

Printed Student Name

Student Signature

Printed Parent Name

Parent Signature

Date

Date