

GRAND LEDGE MARCHING BAND

ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION POLICY

WHY IS ATTENDANCE IS IMPORTANT??

- Marching Band is a TEAM effort. The success of the group is determined by all members being present!
- We rely on all members to be present, actively participate and continually define the standard of the Grand Ledge Bands.
- Marching Band is NOT an activity where missed rehearsals can realistically be made up individually.
- It's not fair to all our organization and collective cause to have "part time members."

ATTENDANCE AT REHEARSALS

EXCUSED ABSENCES

- Illness (sniffles/headaches don't count)
- Emergencies, etc.
- Potential GLHS related activities/sports.
 - These will be arranged and agreed upon by Mr. Szczerowski, coaches/instructors and GLPS Athletic Director.

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

- Work, babysitting, transportation, etc.
- Studying/Homework
- Family Gatherings/Vacations
 - Does NOT apply to summer sectionals
- Any NON-GLHS related activities: club sports, youth group, dance, drivers training, etc.
- Anything reported to the Absence Form less than one week prior to the rehearsal, except an emergency.

LEADERSHIP TEAM

- All leaders need to avoid missing rehearsals/performances.
- You have been selected as a leader for a reason. If you're not at rehearsal, you can't lead.
- You are held to a higher standard than others in the band and need to communicate any absences as soon as you possibly can.
- You are expected to communicate any known absences from your section to the drum majors as soon as possible.

A FEW THOUGHTS

- The GLMB Staff have put hours of time and thought into this policy and we believe our expectations are clear and fair. Our collective success depends on each other.
- Students dual enrolled in marching band and a fall sport, club sport, dance class or activity are expected to manage their time wisely.
- Students with part-time jobs, extra-curricular obligations, travel/club sports are expected to manage their time wisely.
- Above all, you (the student) are expected to stay in clear communication with your section leaders regarding any possible conflicts.

THE BALANCE BETWEEN OTHER ACTIVITIES/ATHLETICS AND MARCHING BAND

- Dual participation in marching band and a GLHS fall sport, club sport or other activity is a TWO-WAY ROAD!
- There are some sports/activities that students are able to balance and have very few conflicts and there are others with many conflicts! Be aware of how your activities conflict with one another.
- While your coaches and I are supportive of your many interests, we expect everyone to put the band or team before your own personal preferences. “Part time” members are unacceptable.
- CHECK YOUR SCHEDULES (like now) for any sport that meets/has games at the same time as marching band rehearsals. You, your coaches and band directors will need to work together to come up with a schedule that works FOR EVERYONE.
 - Saturday rehearsals and competition day rehearsals cannot be missed and will not be excused for any reason other than serious illness or a family emergency. You must contact Mr. Szczerowski directly under these circumstances.
 - The rehearsal before the GL Exhibition cannot be missed – Tuesday, 10/1.
 - Rehearsals during the week of a competition should not be missed.
 - Rehearsals during MCBA State Finals Week cannot be missed for any reason other than serious illness or a family emergency.
 - MCBA State Finals cannot be missed for any reason other than serious illness or a family emergency.
- Any student participating in a fall sport, club sport, other activity and marching band must notify Mr. S. if you didn’t already communicate that on the MB Participation Form.
- ***The GLMB instructional staff realize there will be conflicts and that sometimes you may need to miss, leave early or arrive late to rehearsal. The most important thing to us is that you (the student/parent) are organized and aware of your schedule and possible conflicts. Most of all, we expect you to be proactive and communicative.***

REPORTING ABSENCES FROM REHEARSAL

We will provide you with a GLMB Absence Form in every email sent throughout the season and is posted on our website theglmb.org. This form must be completed by a **PARENT/GUARDIAN** as soon as the conflict is known and must provide a specific reason. Form submissions completed by the *student* will not be accepted and will not grant an excused absence.

All absences should be reported to the GLMB Absence Form the moment they are known, however a one week minimum is expected. Any absence reported in less than 24 hours (except an emergency) notice will not be accepted. Again, all absences must be submitted by a parent or guardian.

ATTENDANCE AT PERFORMANCES

All concerts, festivals and marching band performances are required. These performances are equivalent to major tests in band. An absence from a performance requires a phone call or email to the band director(s) FROM THE PARENT(S). A calendar of all known events for the school year has been made available to students and parents, and is ALWAYS available on our website, www.theglmb.org. Any changes to the schedule will always be announced in class, posted in the band room, and published on the website. It is the responsibility of both the student and parents not to schedule other events that conflict with band performances or rehearsals. Any known conflicts with these performances require a phone call or email from a parent to Mr. Szczerowski and/or Mrs. Hemker at least two weeks before the event, but preferably as soon as a conflict is found. Any emergency situation also requires a phone call or email. Excused absences for football games, GL Exhibition, and Saturday Competitions will NOT be permitted unless contact is made via phone call or email BY A PARENT two (2) weeks prior.

POLICIES AND CONSEQUENCES

- Tardies are unacceptable – any tardy may result in a grade reduction and/or loss of participation privileges.
- Consistent tardiness will result in permanent loss of performing privileges and failure of the class.
- A student shall not exceed two (2) excused absences during the marching band season.
 - *Extenuating circumstances may arise and these will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.*
- Excessive excused absences will result in a grade reduction and possible loss of performance privileges.
- An unexcused absence may result in loss of participation at that weeks' games/performance.
- Multiple (2) unexcused absences may result in permanent loss of performance privileges or dismissal from marching band and failure of the class.
- For 9th graders, failure to comply with the GLMB Attendance Policy could mean failure to meet PE Waiver.