

GRAND LEDGE MARCHING BAND ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION POLICY

Why is attendance 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 our organization and collective cause to have "part time members."

Concerts, Games, Competitions

Concerts, Games, Competitions, Exhibitions and all other performances should never be missed. Extenuating circumstances may arise in which case *parents must contact* Mr. Szczerowski or Mrs. Hemker via email at least two weeks prior to the absence. In the case of an emergency, please contact us at your earliest convenience.

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Reporting Absences

Over the years, we have found reporting absences via Google form works best for us to keep track of absences over the season. When reporting absences, please make sure a *parent/guardian* completes the form when possible and be sure to report absences at least 24 hours in advance, but preferably as soon as you know them. The absence form will be sent via email several times throughout the season and will be posted on our website.

This is particularly important for our August rehearsals!

Excused Absences

- Illness (sniffles don't count)
- Emergencies, etc.
- Some GLHS related activities/sports.
- These will be arranged and agreed upon by the players, coaches and band directors.
- More on GLHS activities below.

Unexcused Absences

- Work, babysitting, transportation, etc.
- Studying/Homework
- Family Gatherings/Vacations
 - Does NOT apply to summer sectionals
- Any NON-GLHS related activities: dance, youth group, club sports, etc.

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.

Balance Between Activities

- Dual participation in marching band and a GLHS fall sport, club sport or other school-related 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.
 - This is especially true in August post band camp as other sports camps really ramp up and regular practice routines are established.
- 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. Neither me nor your coaches want part time players - it’s not fair to anyone.
- CHECK YOUR SCHEDULES (like now) for any sport that has meets/ 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.
 - The rehearsal before the GL Exhibition cannot be missed – 10/3.
 - Rehearsals during the week of a competition cannot be missed.
 - Saturday morning rehearsals on competition days cannot be missed.
- 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 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. We are able to work out basically any conflict so long as we know about it far enough in advance.***

POLICIES AND CONSEQUENCES

- Tardies are unacceptable – all students are expected to be on time for rehearsal, which means at the field at least 10 minutes prior to rehearsal.
 - Students, your parents are busy! Make sure you communicate with your folks if/when you need a ride to rehearsal - this is not just your parents’ responsibility. Be proactive!
- Tardies will result in a discussion with the band leadership and directors and may result in a grade reduction.
- Excused absences for football games, GL Exhibition, and Competitions will NOT be permitted unless contact is made two (2) weeks prior.
 - This contact must be made by students’ parents/guardians via email directly to Mr. Szczeroski and not via the absence form.
 - View the information above in regards to competitions, games, etc.
- 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.
- An unexcused absence will result in a grade reduction and could also 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.
- Absences without communication will result in a conversation with Mr. S. at the next rehearsal and possible meeting with parents and administration.
- For 9th graders, failure to comply with the GLMB Attendance Policy could mean failure to meet PE Waiver.