

# *Miller County Middle/High School*



*2025-2026*

## *Official Handbook*

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## **Student Expectations**

*"We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence then is not an act but a habit." -Aristotle*

*"Excellence is not being the best; it is doing your best."-Quotling*

*"A band is not proud because it performs well; It performs well because it is proud."  
-George Parks*

Membership in the Miller County Middle/High School Pirate Pride Band is a...

**PRIVILEGE, NOT A RIGHT.** All rules stated in the Miller County Middle/High School Handbook will be followed in addition to the ones stated in this handbook. **These rules will be enforced to provide sufficient instruction, safety, and the wellbeing of each member.** Excessive defiance of these rules, blatant disrespect, and or endangerment of another student will be cause for a member being put on probation or removal from the band program.

Disciplinary actions for violations of any rules will be administered, as the director deems necessary. Possible disciplinary actions may include, but are not limited to:

- Running laps
- Push-ups and /or other exercises
- 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter privileges revoked
- Work detail
- Probation
- Removal from the band program

## **CLASSROOM RULES**

1. Be on time for class.
2. Place personal belongings only on the shelf provided.
3. Have your instrument and your music ready to begin class **EVERYDAY** when the tardy bell rings.
4. Buy all necessary items **BEFORE** class. (reeds, valve oil, cork grease, etc.) These items will **NOT** be sold during class.
5. Respect others! Do not speak unless you are invited...It is rude to talk when others are talking, especially the teacher.
6. Sit in **YOUR** seat and play **YOUR OWN** instrument. This includes percussion equipment, mallets, and sticks.
7. Absolutely **NO** gum, candy, or food of any kind in the band room. No drinks except **WATER** in a container with a secure top. Let's keep our room looking nice and clean!
8. Pick up trash and keep your area looking neat! This is a reflection of our program.
9. The instrument storage room is for **INSTRUMENTS ONLY!!** Do not leave personal belongings in this room. All personal belongings left in this room will be placed in the lost and found barrel. If after 2 days, your item is not claimed, it will be thrown away or someone else can collect it.
10. Unless you are getting your instrument/stand/uniform or putting it away, you have no business in the instrument storage room. This is not a place to socialize with friends or be "alone" with your significant other. This rule also applies to the music library room and the two practice rooms.
11. Public Displays of Affections (holding hands, hugging, kissing, etc.) will not be tolerated **ANYTIME or ANYWHERE!**
12. Play only when directed to do so by the director or drum major. Do not play out of turn!! Remain quiet and finger through a passage of your own music while the teacher is instructing others.
13. **No** Cell Phones, iPods, iPads, tablets or any other electronic devices as well as earbuds/ EarPods or headphones, are allowed during class or other rehearsal times. If it is seen and/or heard, it will be taken up until after class/rehearsal. For the 2<sup>nd</sup> offense, it will be taken up and turned into the office.
14. Personal items, such as books, jackets, purses, book bags, etc, left in the band room after class will be put in the lost and found barrel. If after 2 days, your item is not claimed, it will be thrown away or someone else can collect it.
15. **ALL** debts owed to the band **MUST** be paid before each nine weeks grading report is distributed. This includes band fees and/or band charges. Report cards will be held until all debts are cleared. Debts will be kept on file until the student becomes a Senior and will be deemed as a Senior Debt. All debts **MUST** be cleared before graduation.

## **TRIPS AND FOOTBALL GAME RULES**

***Being a member of the Miller County High School Pirate Pride Band requires students to demonstrate only the highest level of integrity, maturity, and professionalism.*** We are called the ***PRIDE*** of the school and community for a reason. You are a representation of our school, community, your family, and yourself! Many people will observe your behavior...let's live up to the name "**PIRATE PRIDE!**"

1. Always be early! **When you are early...you are on time. When you are on time...you are late!** Call time means the time at which rehearsals, performances, bus loading, and/or departure begins. If you arrive late, you run the risk of being left behind!
2. Exhibit good sportsmanship. Remember: *"It's not if you win or lose, it's how you play the game."* (Integrity)
3. Play your instrument **ONLY** when directed by the drum major or band director.
4. Stay in your assigned stadium seat. All instrumental sections will sit together throughout the entire ball game. No one will be allowed to sit in another section and play someone else's instrument.
5. Keep ALL parts of your uniform on, unless otherwise instructed. All pieces of the uniform must be worn correctly. Caps, jackets, toboggans, or other pieces of clothing that are not part of the uniform will **NOT** be allowed to be worn in the stands. At times, band hoodies and letterman jackets may be allowed by the director.
6. Be alert, attentive, and follow all instructions during the game given by the band director and/or drum major. Penalties can be given to our team if the band is playing at certain times. All band members must stand and be an active participant of the game. The football team plays better when the crowd cheers.
7. Visitors are not allowed in the bandstand unless approved by the band director. This includes chaperones, parents, siblings, faculty, and staff. However, Band Alumni are always welcome to join the band and help play in the stands when approved by the director.
8. Public Displays of Affections (holding hands, hugging, kissing, etc.) will not be permitted **ANYTIME or ANYWHERE!**
9. **RESPECT** will always be given to the BAND DIRECTOR, DRUM MAJOR, ALL BAND OFFICERS and CHAPERONES. Disrespect of any kind to anyone will **NOT** be tolerated and will result in disciplinary action.
10. Uniforms and equipment must be kept neat and clean and ready for performance. Uniforms must be hung up correctly, after worn, and put in their proper place. If not, and the uniform gets wrinkled or dirty, you will be responsible for paying to get it cleaned.
11. For away trips, buses will be loaded by rank; Seniors, Juniors, Sophomores, Freshmen, Eighth Grade, Seventh Grade, Sixth Grade.
12. Ladies and Gentlemen are not allowed to sit together on buses (county policy). If necessary, the director will assign seats.
13. Students will load and unload buses only when instructed.

14. Buses will be left clean and all trash will be picked up before anyone unloads; therefore, put your trash in the proper place when you are finished.
15. All students will ride the bus to any out of town event. Students **will not** be allowed to ride home after an away event with anyone other than his/her parents/guardian. A note must be written to the band director and provided the **morning** of the trip stating that your child will ride home with you after the event.
16. Cell phones **are** allowed on out of town trips for the convenience of letting your ride know when to expect to pick you up; however, cell phones are **prohibited** at all performance events and in the bandstand at ballgames. If a cell phone is seen or heard during a ballgame or other performance events, it will be taken up and turned into the school office the following weekday. Earbuds/EarPods are **required** to listen to music on the bus, however they are not **allowed** in the bandstand at any time.
17. Parents/guardians are responsible for picking up students who are unable to drive after all performance events and rehearsals. This pick-up time includes after Thursday night rehearsals, late Friday night ballgames, and other out of town performance trips. If parents are unable to pick you up, it is your responsibility to secure a ride **BEFORE** practices or performances. Waiting until practices and performances are over to plan how you are going to get home is not acceptable and poses undue hardship on Mrs. Holly, Mrs. Krista, and other chaperones. You should always call or text your ride at least 30 minutes before practice time ends or arrival time is anticipated. Mrs. Holly and Mrs. Krista will remind students to call or text so they can be picked up on time. Also, a message will be sent on the BAND APP. ***After 1 hour has passed at the end of any band event or practice, and your ride has not arrived, you will be suspended from performing at the next band event. However, this does not exclude you from the next scheduled practice. Please plan prior to rehearsals!!***
18. **Cooperate with fellow band members and share with them the responsibilities and privileges of being a part of the band program.**
19. Help those that are new and need extra practice on the music or drill.
20. Physical violence and/or profanity will **NOT** be tolerated and will result in immediate discipline from the band director.
21. A student shall **NOT** use, possess, distribute, or sell tobacco/vapes or tobacco/vapes (See School Handbook). Immediate disciplinary action will be taken.
22. A student shall not possess, sell, use, distribute, attempt to distribute, or be under the influence of any alcoholic beverage, intoxicant, inhalant, narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana of any kind, drug paraphernalia, or any substance set out or controlled under and by virtue of the Georgia Controlled Substances Act. A student shall not possess, sell, use, distribute, or attempt to distribute any substance under the pretense that it is an alcoholic beverage, intoxicant, narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana of any kind, or any substance set out or controlled under and by virtue of the Georgia Controlled Substances Act. (See School Handbook) Immediate disciplinary action will be taken.
23. Absolutely **NO** energy drinks of any kind will be permitted during rehearsals and/or performances. This is for **YOUR** safety!

- 24. BE POSITIVE!!! Avoid negative chatter or gossip. BAND TIME IS NOT DRAMA TIME! LEAVE DRAMA OUT OF THE BAND!!!**
25. Conflicts that may arise between others should be settled during personal time and not brought into the band environment. If band members are involved in such conflicts, every effort should be made to resolve the issue before “band time”. If conflicts cannot be resolved between two band members, the appropriate chain of command should be followed to discuss the issue and to reach an applicable resolution.
26. For all band related issues, please follow the appropriate chain of command:  
1. Band Member 2. Section Lieutenant 3. Band Lieutenant 4. Band Captain 5. Drum Major 6. Band Director
27. Keep your grades up in all classes. Band is considered an extracurricular activity. If you are not passing in some or all of your academic courses, then you run the risk of not being able to participate in band activities until your grades improve. Also, adhere to classroom guidelines in every subject. Your conduct should be exemplary in all classes.

**WHAT DOESN'T CHALLENGE YOU, WON'T CHANGE YOU!!**



### **3<sup>RD</sup> QUARTER PRIVILEGES**

During football games, after the half-time performance, all band members will receive free time during the 3rd quarter. Students must first secure instruments in their seats before leaving the bandstand. At home games, students will be given one drink and one food item from the concession stand (any other items must be paid for by the student). At away games, students will be given sandwiches, chips, cookies, and a drink. The students must go through the line and check in with the band booster parents before visiting the concession stand. Students must bring money to pay for their own food at the concession stand. Students must use the third quarter to go to the restroom, eat, and socialize with others at the game. At this time, students may **NOT** walk outside the gate or football stadium area. **ALL** band members **MUST** be back in their appointed seat in the bandstand **BEFORE** call time. Bottled water will be provided in the stands at all games.

3<sup>rd</sup> quarter privileges may be taken away if band students do not comply with the rules, regulations, and policies in the MCHS/MCMS Handbook and/or the MCMHS Band Handbook, and the MCMHS Auxiliary Handbook.

### **SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY**

**AS AN INTERNET USER, you agree to maintain and protect the confidentiality of band information and observe the right to privacy of Band Members, Band Director, and Band Staff. Personal information provided to the Internet must not bring disrespect, contempt or ridicule to the band, the school, and its faculty and/or staff. Regardless of your privacy settings, inappropriate postings to Facebook, Snapchat, Twitter, Private Stories, Instagram, or any other Internet, (personal or social) networking site include, but are not limited to:**

- confidential band information
- alcohol and/or drug related photos
- use of weapons
- sexually explicit photos
- slander, defamation, or any language which may bring embarrassment to the band and/or Miller County Schools.

**Just remember...there is always someone out there that will see what you post and tell someone who posted it!**

**Not adhering to this policy will result in severe consequences from the band director, assistant director and/or school administration. Each offense will be dealt with on an individual basis.**



## **ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION**

- ATTENDANCE IS **MANDATORY**
- ALL PRACTICES AND PERFORMANCES
- YOU ARE **IMPORTANT** TO THE BAND PROGRAM AND WITHOUT YOU, THE ENTIRE BAND SUFFERS.
- OTHERS ARE COUNTING ON YOU! PLAN AHEAD AND DO NOT “DOUBLE BOOK” YOURSELF.
- ***“PRIOR PROPER PLANNING PREVENTS POOR PERFORMANCE!!”***

## **Attendance Policy**

### **• Three Strikes Rule:**

- Accumulating 3 excused absences or 1 unexcused absence will count as a strike.
- Upon receiving the third strike, your third quarter will be forfeited.

### **• Late Arrival Policy:**

- Any minutes you are tardy will reduce your third quarter time.
- Arriving 30 minutes or more late to practice will be recorded as one unexcused absence.

**According to School Policy:** A student is required to be present at school for a minimum of half a day on the day of a practice or performance to be eligible to take part in that practice or performance.

Submission of a doctor's note to the band director and school office is mandatory for ALL absences. Only then will participation be evaluated. Exceptions for religious events will be assessed individually. A parent conference with the band director may also be necessary.

## **REHEARSALS**

During football season, rehearsals will consist of **but not limited to**

- Monday and Wednesday afternoon sectionals after school 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- Tuesday evening rehearsals 6:00-8:30 and Thursday evenings from 6:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

**Failure to attend Thursday evening practices will result in suspension from the following Friday night football game performance. This however, is NOT an excuse from the football game. Band members will be readily available to help loading/unloading trailers and carrying equipment.**

Rehearsals during concert season will be announced in January, at the beginning of the New Year.

**ALL rehearsal times may or may not end early, on time or late; this is at the discretion of the director and/or Assistant Director.**

**\*\*Younger siblings are not allowed at band practices without a parent or guardian present. Even then, family members are asked to stay in the stands or behind the director's podium to ensure safety and eliminate distractions for rehearsing band members. The Band Director, Assistant Band Director and other Band Parents are responsible for band members ONLY! \*\***

Unexcused absences are, but not limited to:

- Work schedule
- Not having a ride to and from rehearsals
- Car trouble
- Headaches, stomach aches, etc.
- Lack of motivation
- Anything that can be done before or after rehearsals

Emergencies and conflict situations sometimes arise that are beyond our control. If you find yourself with a conflict, please notify your section lieutenant and follow the chain of command. If those band leaders cannot be contacted, call the band director **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**. If you know the conflict situation in advance, notification should be given at least two days prior to the scheduled rehearsal with a written request stating the date and nature of the problem. **Submission of a doctor's excuse (including dentist) to the band director is required.**

The only **excused absences** are:

- Absent from school the day of rehearsal/performance due to a personal illness. **Submission of a doctor's excuse (including dentist) to the band director is required. REFER TO ABOVE SCHOOL POLICY FOR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE THE DAY OF PRACTICE/PERFORMANCE.**
- Death of immediate family member (parent, sibling, or grandparent)
- A court order by a government agency
- Observation of a religious holiday/activity (prior permission from director required)
- Another school related event (this must be discussed and worked out among students, band directors and other coaches, teachers, etc.)

**PARENTS: Your support is essential in this matter. Please assist your child in understanding that attending performances and rehearsals outside of school is an integral part of the band. Their grade WILL be negatively impacted if they are not present. Keep the provided band schedule readily available to avoid any unforeseen scheduling conflicts throughout the year.**

**Note: The key to preventing hard feelings is communication between all parties involved. I am happy to work out situations when I am met with a compromising attitude and **ample time to consider the situation.****

**"If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk, if you can't walk then crawl, but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward." — Martin Luther King Jr.**

**TREAT PEOPLE the way you want to be treated. SPEAK TO PEOPLE the way you want to be spoken to. RESPECT is earned, not given.**

## **PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES**

- **Miller County Pirate Pride Marching Band**

The marching band, being the most prominent and recognized performance ensemble, plays a crucial role in showcasing talent at all football games, pep rallies, and parades throughout the academic year. Rehearsals commence at the conclusion of summer break and extend through November, depending on the season's needs. Participation in all band-related events is mandatory for members. Students are encouraged to enroll in the band class during the first semester.

Membership is available to all band students in grades 8-12 who fulfill the course prerequisites. Additionally, a select number of 7th grade band students may be invited by the band director to join this ensemble. This group may also compete in several marching festivals during the fall semester of the school year.

- **Miller County High School Concert Band**

The concert band plays a vital role in delivering musical performances for various school and community events throughout the year. These events include, but are not limited to, the Annual Christmas Concert, Spring Concert, and Graduation Ceremony. Additionally, this ensemble participates in the Georgia Bandmasters Association Concert Band Festival. Students interested in joining the concert band must enroll in the band class during the second semester. Membership is available to all band students in grades 9-12 who fulfill the course prerequisites. A select number of 8th grade band students may also be invited by the band director to participate in this group.

- **Miller County Middle School Concert Band**

The Concert Band at Miller County Middle School includes students in grades 6 through 8. First-year music students are chosen for membership based on their results from a musical skill assessment, an instrument evaluation, and recommendations from their teachers. These students form the beginning band, where they learn the basics of music theory and develop essential skills for playing their selected instruments.

Students in their second and third years of music build upon the foundational skills acquired in prior years. They practice music and techniques that prepare them for entry into advanced bands in the following year, and are classified as part of the intermediate band. All middle school band members are required to participate in band classes for the entire academic year.

- **Soloists or Ensemble Groups/Jazz Band**

Soloists and small groups of like instruments can be assembled for specific community or school performances during the year. Individuals and ensembles may try out for a chance to join the Honor Band and other related activities. Students in the Jazz Band must attend jazz band class for the full academic year.

# **Appropriate Attire for Performances**

## ● **Marching Band**

### ***Football Games/Marching Competitions/Parades***

- Uniform-consists of bibber (pants), coat, vestee, shako (hat), and plume.
- Bando Band Shoes
- Long, solid, black socks

### **Uniform Responsibilities**

Students must keep track of their assigned uniform number. After wearing, uniforms need to be hung up properly and neatly. Failure to do so will result in the student being required to pay for cleaning and pressing the uniform. Only shoes should be stored in the bottom of the uniform garment bag, as these bags are intended solely for uniform items. Uniforms are not permitted to be taken home!

\*Certain marching events may require that students wear band t-shirts or hoodies along with jeans and tennis shoes (NO SANDALS/FLIP FLOPS or BOOTS of any kind). The band director will make this decision and relay the information to the students.

For Auxiliary Uniform information see Auxiliary Handbook

### **Personal Appearance**

When a member is in uniform, the following guidelines must be followed:

- Jewelry is restricted to one pair of stud earrings only.
- Fingernails should be maintained at a reasonable length.
- Hair must be neatly styled, in natural colors, and kept out of the eyes. Only natural shades of blonde, red, black, or brown are permitted on the field during the football season
- Any long hair must be secured under the uniform shako (hat) and should not be visible on the field.
- Auxiliary members are expected to comply with grooming and uniform standards outlined in the auxiliary handbook.

## ● **Concert Band**

### ***Christmas Concert/Spring Concert/Graduation/Concert Evaluation***

***All concert performances will require students to dress in Concert Black***

**BOYS:** Black pants, collared shirt, belt, and dress shoes.

**GIRLS:** Black pants/skirt/dress, elegant shirt or blouse, and dress shoes.

- ALL Attire MUST follow the school dress code.
- NO JEANS or SNEAKERS are permitted for any concert performance.
- All attire is subject to be modified or changed and is determined by the discretion of the band director. Students and parents will be informed of any changes ahead of time.

# **Grading Policy**

## **Class Participation**

Students are expected to show up on time for class with all the necessary equipment. This includes, but is not limited to, your instrument, required music, and a pencil. During class, all students are expected to abide by all classroom rules. Participation also requires **EFFORT** on your part!

All students will receive a participation grade of 100 each week of every nine weeks grading period if all class expectations are met. Students not meeting weekly class expectations will receive a grade lower than 100 for the week.

## **Rehearsals**

All students will receive a rehearsal grade each week. Attending all rehearsals results in a grade of 100. Missing one rehearsal within a week will result in a grade of 90. Missing two rehearsals within a week will result in a grade of 80. Missing three or more rehearsals within a week will result in a grade of 70 or lower.

## **Performances**

All students will earn a performance grade for each event throughout the year. Attending a performance will earn a score of 100. An unexcused absence from any performance will result in a score of zero (0) for that specific date.

Students are required to arrive on time, bring the necessary equipment, have all music ready, wear the appropriate performance attire, participate fully in the event, and assist with both setup and takedown. Note that performance grades are not awarded for football games.

## **Music Checkouts**

Students will have the chance to showcase their skills and musicianship on their instrument through Music Checkouts. These assessments will be conducted one-on-one with the director or section lieutenant. Music Checkouts may include, but are not limited to, scales, warm-ups, and selected passages from the required memorized pieces. Additionally, Written Exams will cover material learned in class.

## **Enrollment in Pirate Pride Band Activities**

Students must register for their designated band class to take part in Pirate Pride Band Activities. It is expected that students remain enrolled in band classes for the full academic year. However, there may be rare instances where a student's schedule conflicts with required courses and band.

In such cases, students can still qualify for membership in a performing group. It is important for these students to recognize that they will need to put in extra effort to keep pace with their bandmates and should take the initiative to stay informed about any changes that may occur during class.

Additionally, students should be aware that they will not earn class credit, and any unexcused absences from rehearsals or performances could lead to immediate removal from the band. Membership in this manner is determined solely by the director and will be evaluated individually.

## **Student Leadership**

### **Student Leadership in the Band Program**

Being a student leader is a privilege, and the responsibilities that come with each position must be taken seriously. All officers are expected to support the director in the planning of band activities, during band camp, and throughout the school year. A strong student staff is essential for the success of any band program. Students are chosen for their musical talent, organizational abilities, and potential for leadership through an audition process. These roles carry high expectations and significant responsibilities, providing students with valuable experiences that will contribute to their success in future endeavors.

It is imperative that all members of the Miller County High School Pirate Pride Band exhibit the utmost respect and adherence to the authority of all Student Leaders. Each leadership position requires a completed application and is ultimately determined by the band director. Specific roles and their associated responsibilities are outlined below. The band director reserves the right to modify or remove responsibilities for any student leadership position at any time.

## **Drum Major**

The Drum Major embodies the belief that the band director's orders are essential for the band's success and serves as a leader both on and off the field. The Drum Major of the Miller County High School Pirate Pride Band deserves utmost respect and obedience.

### **Qualifications:**

- Proficient on a recognized instrument
- Ability to read musical scores
- Capable of warming up the band
- Must have been a member of MCHS Marching Band for at least one year
- Must be in 11th (Junior) or 12th (Senior) grade
- Demonstrates leadership and strong moral character
- Effective communication skills, both individually and in larger groups

Candidates must submit an application and undergo an audition process, including teacher evaluations.

### **Responsibilities of the MCHS Pirate Pride Band Drum Major:**

- Inspires the band to perform at their best
- Acts as a musical leader, conducting during marching seasons
- Enforces rules and maintains order during rehearsals
- Implements consequences for rule infractions
- Assists in correcting group and individual errors
- Makes announcements as needed
- Conducts warm-up exercises at rehearsals
- Directs band during field rehearsals and performances
- Fosters spirit and pride within the band
- Makes decisions in collaboration with the leadership team when the director is unavailable
- Assists band captains and section lieutenants with uniform checks and section oversight
- Aids the logistics team with equipment loading and unloading
- Conducts and oversees pep rallies
- Maintains passing grades in all classes
- Attends all band director meetings
- Supports the band director in all capacities



## **Band Captain(s)**

The Band Captain embodies the belief that the band director's instructions are essential for the band's success. This individual serves as a leader both on and off the field.

### **Qualifications:**

- MCHS marching band member for at least one year
- Must be in 11th (Junior) or 12th (Senior) grade
- Demonstrate leadership and strong moral character
- Proficient on a recognized instrument
- Effective communication skills, both individually and in larger groups

Applicants must complete an application and participate in an audition process, which includes teacher evaluations.

### **Responsibilities of the MCHS Pirate Pride Band Captain(s):**

- Support the band director and drum major with motivation, marching instruction, and field coordination
- Uphold band rules and maintain discipline
- Implement consequences for rule violations
- Foster spirit and pride within the band
- Make announcements as needed
- Lead warm-up exercises if the drum major is absent during rehearsals
- Conduct the band in the absence of the drum major
- Assist section lieutenants in correcting errors during marching rehearsals
- Maintain passing grades in all academic subjects
- Help the logistics team with loading and unloading band equipment
- Meet regularly with section lieutenants to address any issues
- Assist in music sectionals when necessary
- Attend all meetings organized by the band director
- Support the drum major with decisions and band-related issues
- Provide assistance to the band director in all capacities

## **Band Lieutenant**

The Band Lieutenant adheres to the philosophy that the band director's orders are essential for the band's success. This individual is a key leader, both on and off the field, responsible for various operational and secretarial tasks. The Band Lieutenant holds an equal rank to the section lieutenant and assumes the captain's duties in their absence.

Applicants must complete an application and audition process, which includes teacher evaluations.

### **Responsibilities of the MCHS Pirate Pride Band Lieutenant:**

- Check attendance at rehearsals and performances
- Ensure all students are accounted for before bus departure
- Notify the director when buses are ready to leave
- Collect fees and issue receipts for payments
- Maintain passing grades in all subjects
- Complete assigned secretarial tasks from the director
- Oversee the Band Library, including:
  - Distributing, copying, and collecting music
  - Organizing and filing music and books
  - Creating folders for new music
  - Assigning library tasks to band members
  - Conducting weekly library checks to maintain order and cleanliness
- Collect and distribute folders for all concert performances on and off campus

## **Section Lieutenants**

**Woodwind Lieutenant / Assistant Woodwind Lieutenant**

**Brass Lieutenant / Assistant Brass Lieutenant**

**Percussion Lieutenant / Assistant Percussion Lieutenant**

Section Lieutenants operate under the belief that the band director's instructions are essential for the band's success. They serve as leaders both on and off the field, collaborating to foster the band's spirit and pride.

Applicants must complete an application and audition process, which includes teacher evaluations.

### **Qualifications for Section Lieutenant:**

- Must be a member of the MCHS Marching Band for at least one year
- Proficiency on recognized instrument
- Exhibit leadership qualities and strong moral character
- Effective communication skills, both individually and in larger groups

### **Responsibilities of MCHS Pirate Pride Band Section Lieutenants:**

- Enforce band rules and maintain order.
- Implement consequences for rule violations.
- Ensure all section members understand fundamental techniques for their instruments.
- Lead after-school section rehearsals.
- Support section members in music and marching, offering assessment and encouragement.
- Motivate each member to achieve their best
- Uphold band spirit and pride
- Oversee the section's performance in marching and playing
- Maintain order in the stands
- Keep attendance records for section members
- Inspect uniforms
- Attend all meetings called by the Band Director
- Help keep the band room and instrument areas clean
- Ensure rehearsal sites are tidy and lights are off before leaving
- Maintain passing grades in all academic subjects
- Coordinate all sectionals and extra rehearsals through the band director

## **Logistics Team Responsibilities**

The logistics team is crucial for managing all equipment required for the band. This team ensures that all gear is loaded and unloaded for performances, including home football games. It should include the drum major, band captain(s), and a representative from each instrumental and auxiliary section. A plan must be established to facilitate the loading and unloading of all necessary instruments and equipment onto the trailer.

### **MCHS Pirate Pride Band Logistics Team Duties:**

- Load and unload equipment for all performances throughout the year
- Assist in setting up for both marching and concert performances
- Arrive at performance locations 15 minutes before call time for loading/unloading
- Ensure all items are securely tied down before locking the trailer
- Confirm with the band director that all equipment is properly loaded/unloaded
- Coordinate with section lieutenants to ensure all instruments and equipment are accounted for
- Clean the trailer after performances and load/unload at school
- Manage loading/unloading for all concert band performances as required
- Set up and dismantle equipment for all band performances during concert season (local and out of town)
- Distribute instruments, equipment, and uniforms to band members
- Always be the first team off the bus

## **Feature Twirler/Color Guard/Majorette Captain**

The Feature Twirler, Color Guard, and Majorette Captain uphold the belief that the directives of the band director and auxiliary coach are essential for the success of the entire band. They serve as leaders both in practice and performance. Qualifications for these positions are detailed in the MCHS Auxiliary Handbook, which every auxiliary member receives for specific guidelines related to their role. Adherence to the rules, policies, and procedures in this handbook, as well as the auxiliary handbook, is mandatory.

### **Responsibilities of the MCHS Pirate Pride Band Color Guard/Majorette Captain/Feature Twirler:**

- Enforce band rules and maintain order
- Implement consequences for rule violations or policy breaches
- Organize and lead auxiliary rehearsals alongside the auxiliary coach
- Develop routines for field performances
- Assist in teaching the marching show to the auxiliary team
- Support section members with music and marching through assessment and encouragement
- Motivate each member to strive for their best
- Ensure rehearsal spaces are tidy and lights are turned off before departure
- Oversee the proper storage and organization of equipment after rehearsals
- Manage the loading and unloading of equipment at all band events
- Keep a record of issued equipment and its condition
- Foster spirit and pride within the band
- Ensure the band lieutenant records attendance for the auxiliary
- Inspect uniforms of section members
- Attend all meetings convened by the Band Director
- Report issues to the Auxiliary Coach and/or Band Director as needed
- Maintain passing grades in all academic subjects
- Coordinate all sectionals and additional rehearsal time with the auxiliary coach

## **Dues and Equipment Fee Procedures**

Band dues are set at \$100. If paid in full by the end of band camp, this amount will decrease to \$75. Students who fail to pay by the deadline will owe the full \$100. Students in need of financial assistance should privately discuss their situation with the band director to explore payment options.

Dues help cover expenses such as band camp, uniform cleaning, t-shirts, and food for band members at games.

### **Band Booster and School-Owned Instruments/Equipment**

Students using school-owned instruments must pay a \$50 rental fee (due with band dues) for the entire school year. Percussion and Sousaphone players will also pay this fee, which will drop to \$25 if paid by the end of band camp.

The Band Boosters own sousaphones and percussion instruments, while Miller County High School owns other instruments. Students unable to buy or rent an instrument may use school-owned ones but must complete an instrument checkout agreement signed by both the student and a parent.

A \$25 rental fee applies to all other instruments, including percussion and sousaphone. These fees cover necessary repairs during the school year. Students may need to purchase their own mouthpieces and equipment. Percussionists will receive one pair of sticks or mallets; any additional sticks or mallets are the student's responsibility. Drumheads and rims should be cared for to avoid extra costs.

Valve oil, reeds, and cleaning supplies are available for purchase from the band director or a reliable supplier. Students must keep instruments clean and protected. Any damage beyond normal wear and tear will be the student's responsibility. Failure to meet payment obligations before graduation may affect eligibility.

Instruments must be maintained in good condition. If repairs are needed, students should complete a repair order form and place the instrument on the designated shelf in the instrument room. Regular inspections will ensure proper care. When not in use, instruments should be stored correctly in their cases. Reeds should not be left on mouthpieces in cases to prevent mold. Students should also label their instrument cases to avoid confusion.

## **Fundraising**

To support the MCHS Band Program, substantial financial resources are essential. Fundraising activities organized by the MCHS Band Boosters serve as the main funding source. Successful initiatives include concession stand sales at football games, selling poinsettias, and hosting raffles. Without these efforts, the band would face financial constraints. Active participation from all band members and parents in fundraising is crucial to avoid jeopardizing the program. Funds raised cover vital supplies, instruments, and enjoyable activities for band students. Therefore, all MCHS Pirate Pride Band Members are expected to engage in Band Boosters' fundraisers, while parents are encouraged to assist in these activities to ensure the program's success.

## **Band Boosters Scholarship**

The Miller County Band Boosters will award a scholarship to one qualifying graduating senior. To apply, students must submit an application along with an essay to the band booster officers and the evaluation committee. Eligible seniors must have been active participants in both marching and concert band throughout all four years of their high school experience in Miller County. The scholarship amount will be decided by the Band Booster Officer Team.

## **Graduation Band Stole**

To earn a band stole to wear during graduation, a student must have participated in both marching band and concert band throughout all four years of high school. The stoles will be presented to each eligible student during Senior Honors Night in May of their senior year.

## ***Key Rules for MCMHS Pirate Pride Band Students***

1. **Attendance:** Regular attendance at rehearsals, performances, and events is mandatory. Using the proper chain of command, notify your section lieutenant in advance if you cannot attend.
2. **Behavior:** Exemplary conduct is expected at all times, both on school grounds and in the community. Disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated.
3. **Respect:** Show respect to fellow band members, instructors, and school property. This includes listening during rehearsals and following instructions promptly.
4. **Uniforms:** Wear the designated band uniform at all performances. Ensure it is clean and in good condition.
5. **Instruments and Equipment:** Take proper care of all instruments and equipment. Report any damage or issues to the Band Director immediately.
6. **Practice:** Commit to regular practice to enhance individual and group performance. Set aside dedicated time each week.
7. **Communication:** Keep open lines of communication with the Band Director and other band members. Inform them of any concerns or issues that arise.
8. **Participation:** Engage actively in all band activities and support your peers. Teamwork is essential for success.
9. **Policies:** Familiarize yourself with and abide by all rules and regulations outlined in the school/band/auxiliary handbook.
10. **Consequences:** Understand that failure to comply with these rules may result in disciplinary actions or dismissal from the band program.

**Students should regularly review these rules to maintain a positive and successful experience in the MCMHS Pirate Pride Band.**



***MCMHS Pirate Pride Band  
Commitment to Excellence Agreement***

The Band Director retains the authority to add further rules, regulations, and policies to the Miller County Middle/High School Band Handbook whenever necessary. These guidelines are established to enhance the success of the Pirate Pride Band Program and to ensure the safety of all members. Persistent disregard for the rules and policies outlined in this handbook may result in a student's removal from the program. It is essential for all students and parents to carefully review the handbook and sign the accompanying form.

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (print name), have fully read and comprehend the responsibilities and expectations of being a member of the MCHS Pirate Pride Band. I recognize that membership in the MCHS Pirate Pride Band is a privilege, and these procedures are meant to safeguard the well-being of each band member and uphold the program's integrity. I acknowledge that I am expected to exhibit exemplary conduct on the entire school campus and within the community. I understand that failure to adhere to these policies, rules, and regulations could lead to my dismissal from the MCMHS Pirate Pride Band and/or disciplinary actions as determined by the Band Director, Assistant Band Director, and/or the School Administration. I commit to following these requirements and contributing to making the MCMHS Pirate Pride Band the best it can be.

MCHS Pirate Pride Band Member's Signature/Date

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Parent/Guardian's Signature/Date

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