

MEDINA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



Medina Mustang Marching Band Handbook

For Performers, Parents/Guardians and Staff

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Introduction

Welcome to the Medina Mustang Marching Band! This handbook is designed to provide you with all the information you need to be a successful and contributing member of our ensemble. Please read it carefully, as it outlines important policies, expectations, and guidelines that will help us create a positive and productive environment for everyone.

The Medina Mustang Marching Band is a celebrated organization within our school and community that is currently classified by the NYSFBC as Small School 2. We pride ourselves on musical excellence, visual precision, and a strong sense of camaraderie. Your dedication, hard work, and positive attitude are essential to our continued success.

Program History

The Medina Mustang Band began in 1967 with a small group of students, and over the decades it has grown into one of the most accomplished programs in the New York State Field Band Conference. With 15 New York State Championships in 1982, 1989, 1995, 1997, 2000 to 2002, 2005, 2009 to 2013, 2019, and 2021, Medina stands as the second most winning band in New York State history. That level of success has been built over time through consistency, discipline, and a shared commitment to doing things the right way. Every generation of students has added to that foundation, raising the standard and leaving the program stronger than they found it.

It means something to be a member of this band. You are not just joining an activity. You are becoming part of a legacy that has been earned through hard work, accountability, and pride. Membership comes with expectations. You are expected to be prepared, to give full effort, to support your teammates, and to take ownership of your role in the group. Every rehearsal matters. Every rep matters. Every detail matters, because the success of the band depends on each individual doing their part.

Being a member of the Mustang Band also means representing something bigger than yourself. You represent your school, your directors, your families, and the generations of alumni who built this program. You represent the Medina community

every time you step onto a field, march in a parade, or travel to a competition. The way you perform, the way you carry yourself, and the way you treat others all reflect on the band and the community you come from.

There is pride in wearing the uniform, but that pride is earned. It comes from commitment, from pushing through challenges, and from holding yourself and those around you to a higher standard. The goal is not just to win championships, but to build something meaningful together. When you give your best and trust the people around you, you become part of something truly special, a tradition of excellence that continues to grow with every season.

Performance Philosophy

The Medina Mustang Marching Band is committed to creating captivating performances that inspire both participants and audiences. Our philosophy encompasses the principles of musicality, precision, and expression in every aspect of performance.

Musicality and Precision

1. Unity in Sound

- Every performer contributes to the unified sound and visual impact of our performances. It is essential to listen and adjust to ensure harmony and balance within the ensemble.

2. Technical Mastery

- Musicians and guard members alike must strive for technical excellence. This includes mastering the fundamentals of your equipment and continuously working to refine your skills. Consistent practice and attention to detail are crucial for achieving precision.

3. Expression and Emotion

- Beyond technical proficiency, performances should convey emotion and narrative. Musicians should interpret the music with dynamics and phrasing, while guard members should use movement and facial expressions to enhance storytelling. Every performance is an opportunity to connect with the audience on an emotional level.

Visual Impact and Movement

1. Choreographed Excellence

- The visual aspect of our performances is as important as the musical

component. Whether marching, dancing, or executing flag/rifle/saber routines, performers should maintain excellent posture, alignment, and synchronization to create compelling visual patterns and effects.

2. **Spatial Awareness**

- Understanding and maintaining formations is critical. Performers should be aware of their position relative to others and ensure that transitions between formations are smooth and precise. This requires focus and concentration during all performances.

3. **Dynamic Energy**

- Energy and enthusiasm are contagious and elevate the overall performance. Performers should project confidence and vitality in their movements, ensuring that their presence enhances the dynamism of the show.

Commitment to Excellence

1. **Continuous Improvement**

- Every rehearsal and performance is an opportunity for growth. Performers should seek feedback and reflect on their performances to identify areas for improvement. Striving for excellence is a continuous journey that benefits both the individual and the ensemble.

2. **Teamwork and Support**

- The success of our performances relies on the cooperation and support of all members. Encourage and uplift one another, recognizing that each person's contribution is vital to the ensemble's success. Celebrate achievements together and work collaboratively to overcome challenges.

By adhering to this performance philosophy, the Medina Mustang Marching Band aims to deliver outstanding performances that leave a lasting impression. Through dedication and a shared commitment to excellence, we create unforgettable experiences for ourselves and our audience.

Mission and Values

Mission Statement

The mission of the Medina Mustang Marching Band is to foster a community of musical excellence, personal growth, and collaborative teamwork. We strive to create an inclusive environment where every member's contributions are valued, and where the love for music and performance can thrive. Through discipline, dedication,

and a shared passion for the arts, we aim to inspire and enrich both our members and the wider community.

Core Values

1. **Excellence in Performance**
 - We are committed to achieving the highest standards of musical and visual performance. Each rehearsal and performance is an opportunity to showcase our talents and dedication.
2. **Teamwork and Collaboration**
 - Our success depends on the collective efforts of every member. We work together, supporting and encouraging one another to achieve shared goals and create memorable performances.
3. **Respect and Integrity**
 - We treat all members, staff, and volunteers with respect and conduct ourselves with integrity. Our actions reflect the values of our band and our school, both on and off the field.
4. **Personal Growth and Leadership**
 - We provide opportunities for personal development and leadership within the band. Members are encouraged to take initiative, develop confidence, and contribute positively to the group.
5. **Inclusivity and Diversity**
 - We celebrate diversity and strive to create an inclusive environment where every member feels valued and supported. Differences are embraced as strengths that enhance our collective experience.
6. **Community Engagement**
 - We are proud ambassadors of our school and community. Through performances and participation in community events, we aim to inspire and connect with audiences beyond our immediate circle.
7. **Lifelong Appreciation for the Arts**
 - We cultivate a lifelong appreciation for music and the performing arts. Our program encourages members to continue exploring and enjoying the arts beyond their time in the band.

By upholding these values, the Medina Mustang Marching Band not only aspires to perform at our best but also to develop individuals who contribute positively to society through music and camaraderie.

Commitment

Joining the Medina Mustang Marching Band is not just an extracurricular activity; it is a commitment to a community that values dedication, teamwork, and excellence. There is no “bench” in marching band—every member is essential to the group’s success. Your involvement in rehearsals, performances, competitions, and fundraisers is crucial, as each participant plays a unique role in the whole performing ensemble.

The Importance of Every Member

In the Medina Mustang Marching Band, every individual is a vital part of the whole. Your presence and performance are integral to the group’s success. Each drill spot is specifically crafted for you, and your absence impacts the entire formation and performance quality. Remember, when you commit to the band, you are committing to your peers and the legacy of the band itself.

Once you sign the contract, a drill spot is written specifically for you. This means that if you decide to back out, it incurs a financial cost to the band. The drill writer would need to rewrite the show to accommodate your absence, which is an expense we aim to avoid. Your commitment is crucial to the team.

Rehearsals and Performances

Rehearsals are the backbone of our success. They provide the opportunity to refine skills, enhance musicality, and perfect visual elements. Your consistent attendance and punctuality at rehearsals are non-negotiable, as this time is essential for building a cohesive and polished performance.

Our performances—whether at competitions or community events—are showcases of our hard work and dedication. Each performance is a chance to represent our school and community with pride. As such, every member’s full participation is expected and required.

Fundraising and Support

Fundraising is a critical component of our program, enabling us to sustain and enhance our activities. Every member is expected to contribute to these efforts, ensuring we have the resources needed for costumes, equipment, travel, and more.

Your active participation in fundraising events reflects your commitment to the band and supports our collective goals.

A Shared Responsibility

As a band member, you are part of a family that relies on each other for support, encouragement, and success. Your commitment not only impacts your personal growth but also strengthens the entire ensemble. We depend on you to be present, prepared, and passionate about your role in the band.

By fully engaging in all aspects of the Medina Mustang Marching Band, you contribute to a tradition of excellence and camaraderie that extends beyond the field. Your dedication is valued and celebrated, and together, we create unforgettable experiences and memories. Let's make this season remarkable by committing to each other and the art of performance.

Eligibility Policy

Philosophy

The purpose of eligibility regulations is to maintain the primary objective of public schools: education. While Marching Band is an extension of the regular school day, it is our intention to prepare students for life and to make them contributing members of society. To this end, we would be ignoring our responsibility as educators if our eligibility regulations did not promote good attendance, sound academic standing, and good citizenship. These areas are all addressed in the following policy. Requirements Eligibility regulations pertain to all co-curricular activities after the regular school day which are not extensions of classroom work.

- **Financial:** All financial obligations of the student must be met before s/he may participate in co-curricular activities. Students can arrange a payment plan in the office to fulfill financial responsibilities.
- **Attendance:** The student must have a cumulative attendance of 90%. The building principal may excuse absences due to unusual circumstances. Both absences AND tardies will be deducted from perfect attendance. Students who are home suspended or in ISS may not participate or practice on the day they are assigned, including weekends if they are suspended on Friday, unless Friday is their last scheduled day of suspension or ISS. Students must be in school by 10:45 AM to be eligible to

participate that day, unless they have a doctor's note stating they were seen in the office that day. Parent notes are not permitted for this.

- **Citizenship:** The student who wishes to participate in co-curricular activities must demonstrate good behavior in school.
- **Academics:** The student may not be failing or have an incomplete in more than one subject. Students failing one or more subjects are required to stay during 10th period with the teacher of those subjects in order to obtain a pass to practice that day. If the student does not stay after, then they are not permitted to practice that day. It is the student's responsibility to complete an academic achievement form from the main office and have a final signature from an administrator.

Special Circumstances

Administrators have at his/her discretion the ability to impose consequences of greater magnitude if s/he feels that the student has shown no remorse, has not learned from said consequences, has not made corrective changes in behavior, or is not willing to carry out measures to redeem oneself beyond what the band director have imposed on a student.

Notification

Beginning at the end of the first full week of school, teachers will submit a list every Friday of students that are failing their course based on cumulative (full-year) average. The building principal will then publish a list of those students who are ineligible each Monday morning.

Duration

Once on the ineligible list, students remain ineligible until the next Monday morning that the list is published. A student may only be removed from the ineligible list if their financial obligations are met, or if in the case of a mistake by a teacher or administrator, until the error is corrected. *It is the student's responsibility to complete an academic achievement form and have a final signature from an administrator if they wish to participate before the next ineligible list is published.*

Consequences

A student on the ineligible list may not perform or participate in contests. A student may practice and travel with a group, provided that they have stayed after school to work on their academics (if they are ineligible for academics).

Mustang Band Seasons

Fall Marching Band- Field Band (Grades 7-12 Brass, Woodwinds, Pit, Drum Line and Color Guard)

Practices: 2 nights per week from 6:15pm-9pm, Band Camp is **MANDATORY!**

Performances: Saturday Competitions, Friday/Thursday Night Football Games and Sunday Championships.

Winter Color Guard- Winterguard (Junior Varsity Color Guard and Varsity Color Guard)

Students in 7th grade and up are expected to participate in Field Band and Street Band in order to be eligible to participate in the Winter Color Guard.

Performances: Evening Saturday Competitions

Spring Marching Band- Street Band (Grades 7-12 Brass, Woodwinds, Drum Line and Color Guard)

Practices: 2 nights per week 6:15pm-9pm

Performances: Medina Medina Memorial Parade, Spring Trip, Saturday Competitions

Band Booster Organization

The Medina Mustang Band Boosters is a non-for-profit organization that is the backbone of the Mustang Band Program. Once your child/children sign-up to be a member of the Mustang Band Program (includes Winter Guard), the parents/guardians automatically become a Band Booster. The boosters work hard to assure that the band has what it needs and also to raise funds to make it more affordable for every member of the band to have what they need. They are the guiding force in running all of the fundraising efforts. All of our fundraisers need workers to make these events successful. When we are organizing each event, we will be calling to see if you can help out. Remember all money raised benefits the program and your child. More information about how you can help will be out soon, but are always discussed at our monthly Booster Meetings!

Please contact the booster president with any questions regarding the booster organization. Booster president – Julianne McGrath – (585) 315-4929

Booster meetings are held in the Junior-Senior High School. An agenda is sent out the day before each meeting. We encourage you to get involved and help out as often as you can. The Boosters are essential to the band's success and they need chaperones help throughout the year. Please call Juli McGrath if you have any questions.

Communication Guidelines

Effective communication is essential for the smooth operation of the Medina Mustang Marching Band. To ensure that everyone is informed and connected, we have established the following communication guidelines:

Communication Platforms

1. Parent Square

- **Purpose:** Parent Square is the primary platform for all band-related communications. It serves as the central hub for announcements, updates, and essential information. *Private text messaging staff outside the Parent Square platform is not acceptable.*
- **Student and Guardian Enrollment:** All students and their guardians must be registered on ParentSquare. This ensures that everyone receives timely notifications about rehearsals, performances, and other important events. Once the contract is turned in, students will be added into the ParentSquare which should add the guardians as well.
- **Access:** Ensure that your contact information is up-to-date with the school's main office to ensure ParentSquare syncs and you receive all communications promptly.

2. Google Classroom (Students ONLY)

- **Purpose:** Google Classroom will be used for sharing educational resources, assignments, and other band-related materials.
- **Student Enrollment:** All students must join the designated Google Classroom. This platform will provide access to music sheets, practice schedules, and other resources.

Contact Protocols

1. Reporting Absences

- **Notification:** Students and guardians must notify the Band Director of any absences or expected delays as soon as possible.
 - **Method:** Use Parent Square to send a direct message to the Band Director. Include the reason for the absence and any relevant documentation, if applicable.
2. **Concerns and Inquiries**
- **Contact Person:** The Band Director should be the first point of contact for any concerns or questions regarding band activities, policies, or individual student needs.
 - **Method:** Use Parent Square for all communications to ensure messages are received and addressed promptly.

General Communication Etiquette

Parents and Guardians will receive a response within 24-hours. Please do not expect communication outside of school hours. By adhering to these communication guidelines, we ensure that all members and their families are well-informed and engaged in the success of the Medina Mustang Marching Band. Thank you for your cooperation and commitment to keeping the lines of communication open and effective!

Rehearsal Expectations and Etiquette

General Expectations

- **Punctuality:** Be on time for all rehearsals. Being late disrupts the entire band. Aim to arrive 10-15 minutes early to set up and be ready to start on time. Early is on time, on time is late!
- **Preparedness:** Have all necessary materials, including your equipment, music, marching shoes, and any other equipment required for the rehearsal.
- **Focus:** Pay attention to the directors, staff, and section leaders. Avoid talking or engaging in distracting behaviors during instruction.
- **Respect:** Treat all members, staff, and volunteers with respect. Listen attentively when others are speaking.
- **Effort:** Give your best effort at all times. Strive for excellence in both musical and visual performance.
- **Positive Attitude:** Maintain a positive attitude and be supportive of your fellow members.

- **Hydration:** Bring *water* to all rehearsals, especially during outdoor practices. Avoid energy drinks and other sugary drinks.
- **Sun Protection:** Wear sunscreen and a hat during outdoor rehearsals to protect yourself from the sun.
- **Dress Code Policy:** In order to maintain a respectful and professional environment during all band activities, the following dress code rules are established:
 - Shirts Required:
 - Shirts that cover the *full torso* must be worn at all times during rehearsals, performances, and any other band-related activities. Sports bras do not count as shirts and are not considered acceptable attire on their own.
 - Shorts Length:
 - Shorts should be no shorter than mid-thigh to ensure appropriate coverage and protection for both students and staff. This policy helps maintain comfort and focus during activities.
 - Footwear:
 - Sneakers Required: Sneakers must be worn at all times during rehearsals, performances, and any other band-related activities. This ensures safety and allows for proper movement during marching and performance routines.
 - Prohibited Footwear: Open-toed shoes, sandals, and crocs are not permitted as they do not provide the necessary support and protection required for our activities.
- By adhering to these guidelines, we ensure that all members can participate in a comfortable and respectful setting. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

Etiquette Guidelines

- **Silence During Instruction:** When the Band Director, staff members, or a section leader is speaking, maintain complete silence. This shows respect and allows everyone to hear the instructions clearly.
- **Raise Your Hand:** If you have a question, raise your hand and wait to be called on. Avoid blurting out and interrupting the group.
- **Respect Personal Space:** Be mindful of other people's personal space. Avoid bumping into or crowding other members. We all have very expensive equipment and should avoid getting too close to someone and their equipment.
- **Clean Up After Yourself:** At the end of each rehearsal, clean up your area and put away all equipment properly. Wherever we are should be left cleaner than when we got there!

- **Report Problems:** If you notice any problems or have any concerns, report them to the Band Director, another staff member, or your section leader immediately.
- **No Gum Chewing:** Refrain from chewing gum during rehearsals and performances.
- **Stay in Your Designated Area:** During breaks or downtime, stay in the designated area and avoid wandering around. For example, if you are on lunch and are told to stay in the band room, please stay in the band room. Do not go to the cafeteria or wander the halls.
- **Public Display of Affection:** Per the Medina Junior-Senior High School Student Handbook-Anything beyond holding hands is not permitted.
- **Bathroom Usage:** One student will be allowed to go to the bathroom at a time during rehearsals. Please ask an instructor so we can keep an accurate count of who is missing from rehearsals for safety reasons.

Phone Policy

Per the Medina Junior-Senior High School Student Handbook- During after-school, school-sponsored programs, field trips or activities, cell phone usage is at the discretion of the supervisor in charge.

- **No Phone Use During Rehearsals:** Cell phones are strictly prohibited during rehearsals. This includes texting, social media, and phone calls.
- **Storage:** Phones should be left in your bag on the sidelines.
- **Emergency Contact:** In case of an emergency, phones will still be near the student, but on the sideline for them to check during water breaks.
- **Violation:** If found using your phone during rehearsal, the phone will be put in the phone bin by the Band Director.

Attendance Policies

Consistent attendance is essential for the success of the Medina Mustang Marching Band. Each member plays a vital role, and absences can negatively impact the performance of the entire ensemble.

Excused Absences

An excused absence is defined as an absence due to circumstances beyond the student's control, such as:

- **Illness:** A doctor's note is required for absences exceeding two consecutive rehearsals.
- **Family Emergency:** Documentation may be required.
- **School-Related Activities:** Pre-approved school events with documentation from the supervising teacher.
- **Religious Observances:** Notification must be provided in advance.
- **Other Circumstances:** With prior approval from the Band Director, other personal or unforeseen circumstances may be considered excused, provided they are communicated timely and deemed reasonable.

Procedure for Excused Absences

1. Notify the Band Director AND section leader as soon as possible prior to the absence.
2. Provide documentation to support the reason for the absence (e.g., doctor's note, teacher's note).
3. Make arrangements to catch up on any missed material. You are responsible for asking your section leader what you missed in order to catch up.

Unexcused Absences

An unexcused absence is defined as any absence that does not meet the criteria for an excused absence. Examples of unexcused absences include:

- Oversleeping
- Social Events
- Non-Emergency Appointments (Hair Appointments, Nail Appointments, etc.)
- Lack of Transportation (unless prior arrangements have been made)

Consequences of Unexcused Absences

- **First Unexcused Absence:** Verbal warning.
- **Second Unexcused Absence:** Suspension from the next performance.
- **Third Unexcused Absence:** Removal from the group.

Tardiness

Tardiness is also disruptive to the band. If you are late for rehearsal, you will be marked tardy. Three tardies will be considered one unexcused absence.

Communication is Key

If you know in advance that you will be absent, please communicate with the Band Director as soon as possible. Open communication helps us make necessary adjustments and ensures that the band can continue to function effectively.

Bus Policies

Bus Policies

All school rules will be enforced on busses. All members are expected to travel with the Marching Band to competitions. Members are allowed to travel home with their own guardians, if written approval is given to the chaperone chair BEFORE we board the bus to go to the competition, and the guardian is present. We cannot grant permission for a student to ride with anyone other than their guardian. Any other arrangements must be made with the Band Director prior to the event.

- When riding a Medina Central School District Bus, the following policies are in order:
 - Be ready when the bus arrives.
 - Do not enter or leave the bus while it is in motion.
 - Pass in front rather than behind the bus.
 - Remain seated until the bus stops at your destination.
 - Head and arms must not be thrust from or at windows.
 - Swearing or other offensive language must not be used.
 - The use of tobacco, vaping or alcohol is forbidden.
 - Fighting, quarreling, or rough play will not be tolerated.
 - Loud talking distracts the driver and will not be tolerated.
 - Help your bus driver to keep your bus neat and do your part to make his/her driving safe.
 - Obey the bus drivers; they are doing their best for you.
 - Eating or drinking on the bus is prohibited unless otherwise stated by the bus driver.
 - Throwing papers or other items of any kind on the bus is prohibited.
 - Pupils are expected to behave as ladies and gentlemen upon entering and leaving the bus and in obtaining seats.
 - Keep your hands off the person and property of other students.
 - Never tamper with the emergency door.
 - Do not shout out the windows to the public.
 - No animals are allowed on the bus.

- Conscientiously observe all rules and respond promptly to the driver's instructions.
- Music may be played; however, it should not be audible to the bus drivers and chaperones. Additionally, it must be appropriate for a school setting.
- Use of the front door and the front door only is permitted. At no point should a student be using the exit window or back door unless there is an emergency.
- During evening bus rides, opposite-gender pairs and all couples are required to sit separately to maintain a comfortable and distraction-free environment for all students.
- The directors, boosters, or bus driver have the right to move any student at any time from their current seat to a new seat.
- Learn from Fortnite: Always remember to thank your bus driver!

Competition Expectations

Competition Expectations

As members of the Medina Mustang Marching Band, your conduct at competitions reflects on our entire group and school. To ensure a successful and respectful experience, please adhere to the following expectations:

Buddy System

- Grades 6-9: Students must remain in groups of no fewer than four at all times. This ensures safety and accountability.
- Grades 10-12: Students may pair up with a buddy. Stay with your buddy throughout the competition to ensure everyone's safety and wellbeing.

Conduct

- Respect Other Groups: Do not slander or speak negatively about other bands. Show respect and sportsmanship at all times. If a band is talking bad about you, do not talk to them, tell the Band Director right away.
- Check-In Requirements: Regularly check in with chaperones. This includes when arriving, before leaving an area, and during designated check-in times.

Respect for Band Boosters

- Appreciation and Respect: Recognize that band boosters are volunteering their

time to support the band. Always show appreciation for their efforts and treat them with the same respect you would give any staff member.

- Polite Communication: Speak to boosters politely and kindly. Avoid talking back or using inappropriate language. Remember, they are here to help make our performance successful!
- Cooperation: Follow any instructions or requests made by boosters promptly and without argument. They are there to ensure everything runs smoothly and to support the band's needs.
- Positive Interaction: Engage with boosters in a positive manner, whether on the bus or during events. Thank them for their assistance and acknowledge their contributions to our success.

Attire

- Uniform Requirements: Always wear a *plain white t-shirt*, appropriate white undergarments, and calf-high white socks under your band uniform. This ensures uniformity and professionalism.
- Changing Protocol: Change into and out of your uniform on the buses to maintain privacy and organization. **NO CELL PHONES OR RECORDING DEVICES SHOULD BE PRESENT DURING CHANGING.**
- After Competition: Please refrain from wearing pajamas as we are representing Medina Central School District. **Band jackets and show shirts are encouraged!**

Schedule Adherence

- Timeline Compliance: Follow the provided timeline strictly. This includes call times, warm-up sessions, performance times, and departure times. Be punctual to ensure smooth transitions between activities. Students who are not following the itinerary will be subject to removal from the Medina Mustang Marching Band.

Behavior

- Professionalism: Maintain a professional demeanor throughout the competition. This includes refraining from loud or disruptive behavior that may disturb others.
- Chaperone Instructions: Follow all instructions given by chaperones and staff members promptly and without argument.

By following these expectations, we can ensure that our band not only performs exceptionally but also represents the Medina Mustang Marching Band and our

school with pride and integrity. Thank you for your cooperation and commitment to excellence!

Student Leaders

Overview

At the beginning of each fall season, the Medina Mustang Marching Band selects student leaders who exemplify the core values and mission of the band. These leaders play a pivotal role in guiding the ensemble, fostering a positive environment, and ensuring the band's success. The announcement of these leaders takes place during the annual band banquet, a celebration of past achievements and a kickoff to the new season. During this special ceremony, the selection of student leaders is announced, acknowledging the dedication and potential of these individuals. This moment is not only a recognition of their past contributions but also a *call to action to lead with integrity and purpose*.

Criteria for Selection

Student leaders are chosen based on the following criteria:

- **Academic Excellence:** Candidates must maintain a strong academic record, demonstrating a commitment to their studies alongside their band responsibilities.
- **Behavioral Integrity:** Leaders must exhibit exemplary behavior, adhering to all school and band policies. They should be respectful, responsible, and a positive influence on their peers.
- **Kindness and Support:** Leaders are expected to be welcoming and supportive, particularly to new members. They should foster an inclusive environment where all band members feel valued and encouraged.
- **Role Modeling:** As role models, student leaders should embody the values of dedication, teamwork, and excellence. They should inspire others by their actions and attitude.

Responsibilities of Student Leaders

The responsibilities of student leaders include:

- **Mentorship:** Guide and support new and returning members, offering help and advice to improve skills and confidence.

- **Communication:** Serve as a liaison between the directors and the band members, ensuring that information is effectively communicated.
- **Leadership in Rehearsals:** Assist with rehearsals by demonstrating techniques, leading sectionals, and offering constructive feedback when asked to do so.
- **Fostering Team Spirit:** Encourage camaraderie and unity within the band, promoting a positive and motivating atmosphere.

Drug and Alcohol Abuse Policy

The Medina Mustang Marching Band is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for all of its members. The use, possession, or distribution of drugs or alcohol is strictly prohibited at all band activities, including rehearsals, performances, and trips. Violators will face severe consequences.

If a student who is a member of the Medina Mustang Marching Band is found to have been using or in possession of any quantity of tobacco, electronic cigarettes, oral nicotine products including nicotine vapes, zyns, etc, alcoholic beverages and/or any illegal substances such as drugs, THC vapes, the following sanctions will be enforced:

First Offense

- The student will receive a 90-day suspension from the Medina Mustang Marching Band.
- This suspension may be reduced to 25% of the performances scheduled for the season if all of the following conditions are met:
 - The student enrolls at a counseling program (such as UConnect Care).
 - A substance abuse counselor signs a letter certifying that the student has made a good-faith effort to make better lifestyle decisions, and are avoiding the situations that led to the drug and alcohol policy rules violation. The substance abuse counselor is the only one who is qualified to sign this release.
 - The band member must complete a community service project to be created at the discretion of the band director.

Any further offenses will result in removal from the program at the discretion of the Band Director and Administrators.

Out of Season Offenses

- Medina's drug and alcohol policy rules are in effect year-round, 365 days.
- If a student violates these drug and alcohol policy rules when s/he is out of season (for example: in the summer), the suspension will take effect on the first day of the next marching band season that the student participates in:
 - One example: a band member violates training rules on December 12th – Suspension will be in effect from the first day of spring season.
 - Another example: a guard member violates training rules on March 1st – The suspension will be in effect through the rest of the Winterguard season and follow into the Spring Band season.

Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention

According to the NYS Penal Code, smoking, vaping and the use of tobacco products are prohibited in school, on school grounds, or at school events by *anyone*. Any tobacco products or vaping equipment will be confiscated and turned over to administration. This also includes any tobacco/E-cigarette, or non-prescription nicotine delivery system. Please note that it is also illegal in New York State to smoke an electronic cigarette within 100 feet of entrances to public or private schools.

Behaviors and Violations Resulting in Removal

The following behaviors and violations may result in removal from the Medina Mustang Marching Band:

- **Repeated violations of the attendance policy:** Consistent unexcused absences or tardiness.
- **Disrespectful behavior towards members, staff, or volunteers:** Bullying, harassment, or insubordination.
- **Violation of the drug and alcohol policy:** Use, possession, or distribution of drugs or alcohol at band activities.
- **Theft or vandalism of band property:** Damaging or stealing equipment or other band assets.
- **Fighting or physical violence:** Engaging in physical altercations at band activities.
- **Academic Dishonesty:** Cheating or plagiarism related to band assignments.
- **Conduct that brings discredit to the band or the school:** Actions that damage the reputation of the Medina Mustang Marching Band.

- **Failure to meet performance standards:** Consistent lack of preparation or effort.
- **Insubordination:** Refusal to follow the instructions of the staff or section leaders.
- **Harassment:** Any form of harassment, whether verbal, physical, or electronic, will not be tolerated.

Bullying Policy

Bullying

Per the Medina Junior-Senior High School Student Handbook- The Medina Central School District and Board of Education prohibit acts of bullying. The board has determined that a safe and civil environment in school is necessary for students to learn and achieve high academic standards. Bullying, like other disruptive or violent behavior, is conduct that disrupts both a student's ability to learn and a school's ability to educate its students in a safe environment. "Bullying is unwanted, aggressive behavior among school aged children that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. *The behavior is repeated*, or has the potential to be repeated, over time. Bullying includes actions such as making threats, spreading rumors, attacking someone physically or verbally, and excluding someone from a group on purpose." Bullying can take many forms; however, the main types are defined as any gesture or written, verbal or physical act, or any use of electronic communication (a communication transmitted by means of an electronic device, including, but not limited to, a telephone, cellular phone or computer) that takes place on school property, at any school-sponsored function, school-related activity or on a school bus and that:

- is motivated by any actual or perceived characteristic, such as race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or a mental, physical or sensory disability; or,
- by any other distinguishing characteristic; and
- a reasonable person should know, under the circumstances, that the act(s) will have the effect of harming a student or damaging the student's property, or placing a student in reasonable fear of harm to his person or damage to his property; or

- has the effect of insulting or demeaning any student or group of students in such a way as to cause substantial disruption in, or substantial interference with, the orderly operation of the school.

All members of the school community, including students, parents/guardians, volunteers and visitors, are also urged to report alleged violations to the principal or the principal's designee. Forms of bullying include, but are not limited to, physical or verbal assaults, nonverbal or emotional threats or intimidation, social exclusion and isolation, extortion, and the use of a computer or telecommunications to send embarrassing, slanderous, threatening, or intimidating messages. Specific examples of bullying may include, but are not limited to:

- Verbal bullying: name calling, insulting remarks, verbal teasing, frightening phone calls, violent threats, extortion, taunting, gossip, spreading rumors, racist slurs, threatening electronic communications, anonymous notes, etc.
- Physical bullying: poking, slapping, hitting, tripping or causing a fall, choking, kicking, punching, biting, pinching, scratching, spitting, twisting arms or legs, damaging clothes and personal property, threatening gestures, etc.
- Social bullying: purposely excluding someone from a group, spreading rumors or gossiping, arranging public humiliation, undermining relationships, teasing about clothing, looks, giving dirty looks, aggressive stares, etc.

Consequences for Bullying

- **First Offense:** Verbal warning.
- **Second Offense:** Suspension from the next performance.
- **Third Offense:** Removal from the group.

Deadlines for Memorizing Music

Memorizing music is crucial for achieving a polished and professional performance. The following deadlines have been established to ensure that everyone is prepared for each performance.

- **Movement 1: Middle of July**
- **Movement 2: Beginning of August**
- **Movement 3: Middle of August**
- **Movement 4 (if applicable): End of August**

Memorization Expectations

- All musical passages and guard work must be memorized by the specified deadlines.
- Music and guard work memorization checks will be conducted regularly to assess progress.
- Failure to meet memorization deadlines may result in disciplinary action, including but not limited to: reduced playing time or suspension from performances.

Tips for Memorization

- **Practice Regularly:** Set aside time each day to practice your music.
- **Break It Down:** Divide the music into smaller sections and memorize each section or counts individually.
- **Use Mnemonics:** Create memory aids such as acronyms or rhymes to help you remember difficult passages.
- **Visualize the Music:** Imagine yourself performing the music or guard work and visualize the notes on the page or the counts.
- **Listen Actively:** Listen to recordings of the music and follow along with your part.
- **Practice with Others:** Practice with your section or other members to reinforce memorization of your work.
- **Use Flashcards:** Write musical passages on flashcards and quiz yourself regularly.
- **Record Yourself:** Record yourself playing the music and listen back to identify areas where you need to improve.

Participation in Sports and Other Clubs

The Medina Mustang Marching Band recognizes and supports the value of participating in various extracurricular activities, including sports and other clubs. We encourage our members to explore their interests and engage in a well-rounded school experience. However, it remains the responsibility of each band member to prioritize and attend all scheduled band rehearsals and activities.

Guidelines for Balancing Commitments

- **Local Events:** For games or events held in Medina, students are required to arrive at band rehearsal no later than 30 minutes after the conclusion of the event. This allows time to eat and prepare for rehearsal.
- **Away Games:** For away games, students must be at rehearsal within 30 minutes of the bus's return to the school.
- **Partial Attendance:** If a game or event concludes half an hour or less before the end of rehearsal, it is expected that students will make every effort to attend the remaining portion of the rehearsal.

By adhering to these guidelines, students can successfully manage their commitments to both the band and other extracurricular activities. Communication is key, so please inform the Band Director of any scheduling conflicts in advance to ensure a smooth coordination of your activities. Your dedication to balancing these responsibilities will contribute to the overall success and integrity of the Medina Mustang Marching Band.

What to Expect During Rehearsal

1. Arrival and Setup (before rehearsal starts)

- Members arrive early to set up equipment and prepare.
- Ensure all necessary materials (instruments, music, equipment) are present.
- Attendance check by section leaders.

2. Whole Group Cardio Warm-Up

- **Objective:** Enhance physical endurance and readiness.
- **Activities:**
 - Dynamic stretches (e.g., arm circles, leg swings).
 - Light jogging around the field or designated area.
 - High knees and butt kicks.
 - Cool down with deep breathing exercises.

3. Visual Warm-Up (brief period)

- **Objective:** Focus on marching fundamentals and visual alignment.
- **Activities:**
 - Posture alignment exercises.

- Basic marching techniques (forward march, backward march, slides).
- Visual precision drills (e.g., step sizes, angles, and formations).

4. Section Break-Offs (focused session)

- Objective: Focused practice on specific music or equipment skills.

Winds

- Music Warm-Up:
 - Breathing exercises and long tones.
 - Scale exercises focusing on intonation and balance.
 - Section-specific challenging passages from show music.

Percussion

- Equipment Training:
 - Technique exercises for drum line and pit.
 - Rudiment practice for snare and tenor drums.
 - Mallet warm-up for keyboard instruments.

Color Guard

- Equipment Training:
 - Flag technique drills (spins, tosses, and catches).
 - Rifle/saber handling and control exercises.
 - Choreography review and synchronization.

5. Full Ensemble Rehearsal (extended session)

- Objective: Integrate music and visuals with the entire band.
- Activities:
 - Run-through of Show Movement
 - Feedback session with the Band Director and Staff
 - Rehearse problematic sections with full ensemble.
 - Work on transitions and dynamics to enhance storytelling.

6. Closing and Dismissal (brief period)

- Discussion:
 - Quick review of rehearsal achievements and areas for improvement.
 - Announcements regarding upcoming performances or changes in schedule.
- Clean-Up:

- Ensure all equipment is returned to the proper storage areas.
- Leave the practice area cleaner than before.

Note: Please bring water, sunscreen, and appropriate attire for an outdoor rehearsal. Your commitment and effort are vital to our success. Let's make this rehearsal productive and enjoyable!

Financial Considerations

To ensure that every student has the opportunity to participate in the Medina Mustang Marching Band, we strive to keep expenses as affordable as possible. The primary financial requirements include a \$30 fall marching band fee and, if needed, a pair of marching shoes, which typically cost around \$50-\$60. We will confirm the exact price once fittings and orders are completed. Please indicate on the contract if you require new shoes or are purchasing your first pair. Additionally, students should bring money for meals during competitions. We also plan to organize a spring trip, which will incur costs; however, we are committed to minimizing expenses and will provide several months' notice regarding the cost to allow for financial planning. We believe financial constraints should not deter any student from joining the marching band. If financial concerns are influencing your decision, please contact us, as we are eager to assist with these costs wherever possible.

Fundraising Commitment

Fundraising is a vital component of the Medina Mustang Marching Band experience, and it is mandatory for all members to participate. The funds raised directly support essential activities and resources that enhance our band's success and enjoyment.

Fundraising Expectations

- **Mandatory Participation:**
 - All members are expected to attend and actively participate in fundraising events. Your involvement is crucial to meet our financial goals and support the band's operations.
- **Excused Absences:**
 - If you are unable to attend a fundraising event, please notify the Band Director no later than a week before the fundraiser, and provide documentation for an excused absence. Acceptable reasons align with the

criteria outlined in the excused absences policy.

Commitment to Success

By committing to fundraising efforts, you contribute to the overall success and sustainability of the Medina Mustang Marching Band. Your participation ensures that we can continue to provide valuable experiences and uphold the high standards of our program. Thank you for your dedication and support!

Next Steps

Now that you have reviewed the Medina Mustang Marching Band Handbook, here are your next steps:

1. **Commitment Consideration:** Before signing this contract, have a thoughtful discussion with your family about the level of commitment required for the Medina Mustang Marching Band. Understand that quitting after signing the contract impacts the entire band, as a drill spot is created specifically for you. It is essential to ensure that you are fully dedicated to participating in all aspects of the program, as an empty drill spot affects the formation and performance quality of the entire ensemble. Every individual here plays a vital role; there is no "bench." Everyone is equally important as those around them!
2. **Sign the Commitment Contract:** Sign and return the commitment contract to the Band Director by May 21st, 2026. Upon signing this contract, a designated drill spot will be assigned to you. If you choose to withdraw at any point during the season, it will negatively impact the entire team!
3. **Sign the Medical Form:** Sign the Medical Form and turn that in to the Band Director by May 21st, 2026. We will need this before you are able to rehearse!
4. **Fall Fee:** Turn in the \$30 Fall Marching Band Fee with exact cash or check made out to the Mustang Band Boosters.
5. **Familiarize Yourself with the Rehearsal Schedule:** Review the rehearsal schedule and mark all dates on your calendar. Please do your best to avoid scheduling appointments during band rehearsals. Hand an additional calendar to your employer today, indicating the specific days you should not be scheduled!
6. **Begin Practicing Your Music:** Start practicing your music regularly to ensure that you are prepared for the first rehearsal.
7. **Ask Questions:** If you have any questions about the handbook or the band in general, please do not hesitate to ask the Band Director or a section leader.

Medina Mustang Marching Band Member Agreement

As a member of the Medina Mustang Marching Band, I (student), _____, understand and agree to the following:

1. **Attendance and Punctuality:** I will attend all scheduled rehearsals, performances, and other band activities unless excused according to the attendance policy outlined in this handbook. I understand the importance of being punctual and will aim to arrive early to be fully prepared.
2. **Preparation and Equipment:** I will arrive at all rehearsals and performances on time and fully prepared, with my equipment, music, marching shoes, and any other necessary items. I am committed to maintaining a professional appearance, adhering to the dress code, and ensuring my equipment is in good condition.
3. **Effort and Attitude:** I will give my best effort at all times, striving for excellence in both musical performance and visual presentation. I will maintain a positive attitude and be supportive of my fellow members, contributing to a collaborative and motivating atmosphere.
4. **Respect and Conduct:** I will treat all members, staff, band boosters, and volunteers with respect and courtesy. I will adhere to etiquette guidelines, ensuring respectful communication and behavior at all times, including during competitions and on bus rides.
5. **Rules, Policies, and Safety:** I will abide by all rules and policies outlined in this handbook, including the phone policy, bus policies, competition expectations, and drug and alcohol policies. I understand that safety is paramount, and I will adhere to all procedures designed to protect myself and others.
6. **Communication and Reporting:** I will communicate any concerns, conflicts, or the need for absences to the Band Director or section leader in a timely and respectful manner.
7. **Fundraising Commitment:** I understand my participation in fundraising activities is integral to the success of the band, and I will actively participate. I recognize the importance of these efforts in supporting band activities and resources.
8. **Drug and Alcohol-Free Pledge:** As a member of the Medina Mustang Marching Band, I pledge to remain drug and alcohol-free at all band activities. I understand that my actions reflect on the band and the school, and I will conduct myself in a responsible and ethical manner.
9. **Anti-Bullying Commitment:** I commit to fostering a safe and inclusive environment by refraining from bullying in any form and reporting any incidents of bullying immediately.
10. **Memorization and Practice:** I will meet all music memorization deadlines and practice regularly to ensure my readiness for performances.

Consequences of Violating this Contract: Violations of this contract may result in removal from the Medina Mustang Marching Band.

Student Signature _____

Date _____

Student Unisex T-Shirt Size _____

Will the student need new marching shoes? (Check one) YES _____ NO _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Parent/Guardian Cell Phone Number _____

Emergency Contact Name _____

Emergency Contact Phone Number _____

\$30 Fall Fee: Check Number (Made out to Medina Mustang Band Boosters) or Cash _____

**MEDINA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION, SPORTS AND SAFETY**

With the knowledge that the school will take all ordinary precautions to avoid injury, I hereby grant

STUDENT'S NAME _____ permission to participate in
SPORT _____ at _____ SCHOOL _____ H.S.
Parent/Guardian _____ SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____ 20 _____

PERMISSION FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL TREATMENT

In the event of an emergency requiring medical attention, every effort will be made to contact the parent/guardian in order to receive authorization before any treatment or hospitalization is undertaken. I hereby grant permission for a physician or hospital personnel designated by the Medina Central School District to attend to my son/daughter.

STUDENT'S NAME _____ BIRTH DATE _____
PARENT _____ SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

HOME PHONE _____ BUSINESS PHONE _____
ADDRESS _____
EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBER _____

HEALTH HISTORY

FAMILY DOCTOR _____ PHONE _____
ADDRESS _____

If an emergency, if the parent cannot be contacted, please notify:

Known allergies _____ PHONE _____

Additional medical information: _____

History Since Last Medical Exam					
Item	Yes	No	Item	Yes	No
1. Any injuries requiring medical attention?			6. A surgical operation or fracture?		
2. Any illness lasting more than five (5) days?			7. Treated in a hospital or emergency room?		
3. Taking any medicine or under physician's care at this time?			8. Any reason why this person cannot participate in any sport?		
4. Any feeling of faintness, dizziness or fatigue after heavy exertion?			9. Any known allergies?		
5. Wears glasses or contact lenses?			10. Any chronic disease?		

If yes to any of the above, describe: _____

PERMISSION

We understand clearly that the questions are asked in order to decide if this student is in a proper condition to participate in the athletic or music activity named at top of this form. The answers are correct as of the date this form is signed. All answers will be kept confidentially in his/her health record in the school health office.

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____	Date _____	Signature of Student _____	Date _____
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