

Mansfield High School Tiger Band



Student Handbook 2024-2025

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Band Webpage

www.mhsband.com

The Mansfield High School band is dedicated to the idea of “One band- One Sound.” The individual sections of Brass, Woodwinds, Percussion, and Color guard come together to form one band and diligently work toward a common goal. Dedication, Determination, Discipline, Pride, and Respect are the foundations that every student, director, and parent are expected to practice on a daily basis.

Three Easy Rules of Band

1. BE ON TIME:

This includes being on time to class as well as to all rehearsals. It is best to be fifteen minutes early to ensure you have the proper equipment and supplies needed for that rehearsal. (This includes your drill/coordinate sheets, personal electronic device, water backpacks, music, instrument, equipment, etc.)

2. BE RESPONSIBLE:

This includes bringing *all equipment* (instrument, music, water backpacks, etc.) to rehearsals and performances, knowing and practicing your music and drill (outside of class/rehearsal time), and bettering the image and reputation of the Mansfield band student at all times. All members must be respectful of all school owned property and facilities.

3. BE RESPECTFUL:

This includes in the band building, fields, busses, or any time during which you are in a group of more than one band student. (We have an image and reputation to maintain). The Band Hall will be treated as a “Safe Zone” where every member should be able to feel comfortable and accepted.

Band room rules

The band room should look and feel like a second home, and we need to keep it clean/organized at all times. Please follow these simple rules:

1. No food, drink, or gum in the band room at any time. (With the exception of water in water backpacks)
2. Only current band members are allowed in the band room.
3. Hats and ball-caps are not to be worn in the band room.
4. No Headphones or earbuds are to be worn in the band room.
6. No trash left on the floor or in lockers and/or practice rooms.
7. All instruments and band related supplies should be shelved neatly in the instrument lockers during class/rehearsal and securely locked. **Do not leave any personal belongings lying around. Everything must be in your LOCKED locker.** Nothing should ever be kept on the ground. Instruments and music should be taken home in the evening to practice!
8. Instrument lockers are to be only used for band supplies and music.
9. No horseplay or rough-housing in the band room.

Lockers:

Each band member will be issued an instrument locker and an optional school locker. The instrument locker (in the band hall) is to only be used for music and instruments. All other items (textbooks, bags, purses, marching band clothes) will need to be kept in the Mansfield High School (blue) locker located in the campus hallways. (water back packs must be stored EMPTY.... You can fill them with water after school)

Band Expectations

Because band is the largest and most respected organization on campus, there are a few expectations that must always be met:

1. Band students miss class often, and therefore it is important to be absent as seldom as possible.
2. Truancy in any class is NOT ACCEPTABLE.
3. Band students should NOT be written up in any class for discipline issues.
4. Band members should always be respectful to the school administration, faculty, staff members and band boosters.

Overall, the band students must strive to be the best students on campus. Good grades, great attitudes, and pleasant dispositions are not only required in band class, but throughout the school day.

BAND IS A YEAR-LONG COMMITMENT!!!

Families need to understand that the key to a strong band program is active and consistent participation in the ensembles offered all year. The students will only get better when actively involved in the marching, concert, jazz, winter guard, and small chamber ensembles.

Once a student leaves the band program, they will not be allowed back in (i.e. a student who does marching band and then quits for concert season will not be allowed in the following marching season). The band directors may, if they choose, decide to make an exception to this rule for extenuating circumstances

Grades (please see syllabus)

Attendance at performances:

- All students are required to be at all sanctioned performances. (Including pep-rallies, parades, concerts, and games)
- The correct "uniform" (For pep-rallies the prescribed shirt must be worn if the student is not participating in the school-wide dress-up day)
- A letter of absence as well as personal/telephone communication with a band director must occur at least 24 hours prior to the absence.
- In the case of an emergency, a letter and personal communication with a director will be allowed after the absence.

**WITH THIS GRADING POLICY, THERE IS NO REASON FOR ANY STUDENT NOT TO
HAVE A 100 AVERAGE EACH GRADING PERIOD!!!!**

INCLEMENT WEATHER

**NEVER ASSUME THAT A REHEARSAL OR PERFORMANCE HAS BEEN CANCELLED
DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER!!!!**

Always refer to the messages from a director on REMIND101

Online Calendar

You can view the most up-to-date calendar by logging on to the band website

Typical Weekly schedule

Monday:

3:00- 3:25 Tutorials*
3:30-6:00 Full Band Marching Rehearsal

Tuesday:

3:00- 3:25 Tutorials*
3:30-6:00 Full Band Marching Rehearsal

Wednesday:

3:00 – 4:00 No rehearsal

This is a great day for extra long tutorials with your teachers

The directors will be available to serve the band students.

By appointment, students may receive extra help on all-region music, solos, show music, or school work. This is a great time to play off your required music.

*There will be a few “Special Rehearsals” on Wednesdays to make up from school holidays. These dates are communicated well in advance and can also be found on the CHARMS calendar.

Thursday:

3:00- 3:25 Tutorials*
3:30-6:30 Full Band Marching Rehearsal

Friday:

4:30 This is an approximate call time for games. This time will alter slightly depending on the location and start time of the football game. **It is important that you eat diner before you come. Think about this in advance and make the appropriate arrangements. You will not have a chance to eat until after the game!**

* Tutorials are set up to ensure that all students in the Mansfield Band Program are achieving on the field, and in the classroom. Students that **MUST** be at tutorials will be designated by the directors, but all students are welcome and encouraged to use this time for their academic enrichment. Students will have the option to attend a Mansfield H.S. tutorial offered by a campus teacher, or they can attend tutorials being led by academically outstanding students in the band. Our goal is to maintain a high level of achievement in music and all other subjects.

IF YOUR CHILD HAS ASTHMA, DIABETES, OR ANY OTHER MEDICAL CONDITION PLEASE INFORM THE DIRECTORS IMMEDIATELY!!!!

*Students need to have their medication/inhaler on their person
for afterschool rehearsals and all performances*

Supplies

The following items are required at **every** band class rehearsal:

Woodwinds- 3 extra working reeds (meaning 4 good reeds), reed guard, swab, pencil, music folder, flip folder, drill-card in your neck-wallet, and a hydration backpack.

Brass- Valve oil, slide grease, pencil, music folder, flip folder, drill-card in your neck-wallet, and a hydration backpack.

Percussion- Necessary sticks, mallets, mallet bag, pencil, music folder, flip folder, drill-card in your neck-wallet, and a hydration backpack.

Color Guard- all equipment in working condition, and any designated clothing, drill-card in your neck-wallet, and a hydration backpack.

ALL SECTIONS NEED- Black Binder, Flip Folder, All music handed out per semester, All-Region music.

Discipline

Discipline is a quality that must come from within the individual. Each student is held responsible for his or her own actions as a member of the Mansfield High School Band. Any student who shows an inability to work effectively in class may be re-assigned to another class at the discretion of the band director.

As a school group, the band is governed by school and school board policies anytime we are together for any band function whether it involves all students or only one. Any student who violates school rules while with the MHS band will be subject to all usual school disciplinary procedures. In addition, those students will be subject to the possibility of dismissal and may not continue to perform or travel with the band. **This includes the use of cell-phones while at afterschool rehearsals and games.**

Students who are suspended from public performances are required to attend and actively participate at all rehearsals. If a student is suspended from public performances, a conference will be held with the directors and the guardian of the student. Once the conference has occurred, and the student proves that he/she can participate in public events while maintaining the standard and image of the Mansfield Band, the band directors may allow the student to participate in public performances.

All students involved in any extra-curricular activities, must adhere and follow the MISD code of conduct for extra-curricular activities.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1WdaBKOlWvU40KFqcUyniO6jaKd5wxq3S/view>

Mansfield Band Ensembles

Placement into bands

- Placement into any of the Mansfield bands is done by audition.
- Auditions and audition music for a the following school year will happen in Spring Semester.
- On certain occasions, a student can try to move “up” a band based on their achievement on the All-Region audition music and other music fundamentals exercises.
- The band is not set to any specific instrumentation or number. Ensemble instrumentation will be based on the needs of the program.

Mansfield Wind Ensemble:

The Mansfield Wind Ensemble is an ensemble that consists of the top players in the band program and is determined by competitive audition. This ensemble plays demanding music and is subject to a very high level of achievement. As such, all students in the band must actively work to maintain this standard. Performances will include UIL, one or more invitational festivals, two or more spring concerts and special events. Members of this band are expected to audition **and make** the All-Region band. These students must have excellent attendance records and grades. All members of the Wind Ensemble are expected to participate in all contests and performances, including the out-of-town band trip/contest. Every member of the wind Ensemble will also be expected to perform/compete at MISD solo and MISD ensemble contest. In addition, extra rehearsals and clinics are occasionally scheduled during competition time; however, you will be given a complete calendar in January for all spring rehearsals and events. Mr. Ludlow expects and demands more of these students; only those students who feel they can handle the pressures and responsibility of being in this ensemble should consider membership. Members of the Wind Ensemble members are expected to be enrolled in private lessons, participate in the All-Region Band auditions, Solo & Ensemble Contest, and be leaders in other performing ensembles such as Jazz Band, Brass Choirs, Woodwind Choirs, and Percussion Ensemble. Students in this ensemble will have a weekly after school sectional, and a weekly after school band rehearsal. ***IT IS A PRIVILEGE, NOT A RIGHT, TO BE IN THIS ENSEMBLE.***

Mansfield Symphonic Band

The Mansfield Symphonic Band is determined by competitive audition. These students are expected to attend all performances and rehearsals (full band and sectional) as well as practice daily. All students in the ensemble are expected to maintain good attendance records and good grades. The Symphonic band will compete at UIL and possibly other concert contests. This band will be held to high standards and students in this ensemble will need to strive to reach the demands that the directors place on this group. Students in this band are expected to audition for the All-region band. Students are also expected to perform/compete at MISD solo/ensemble contest.

Mansfield Concert Band

The Concert band is a competitive band that is also determined via audition. Students will be required to attend after school sectionals and full band rehearsals. This is a competitive band that will compete at the UIL festival and one other contest. Students in this band are expected to participate at the MISD Ensemble contest.

Marching Band

All members of the marching band must:

1. Attend **all** rehearsals and sectionals.
2. Perform at all sanctioned activities (games, contests, pep rallies, assemblies, parades etc.).
3. Be academically eligible.
4. **Pass-off the Fight Song, Alma Matter, Hey Look Me Over BEFORE THE FIRST GAME**
5. Pass-off the designated show music (as prescribed)

Marching Band Spots

1. To obtain a marching band spot, all students should pass-off their music, be at ALL rehearsals, and maintain good grades in all their classes.
2. Those students who do not initially receive spots can challenge a student for their spot.
3. Challenges must be made in the presence of a director and both students involved in the challenge.
(Challenge must be issued before the end of Tuesday night rehearsals)
4. A challenge will happen no fewer than 24 hours after the challenge has been made.
5. Students who do not have “performance spots” (alternates) in the field show must still attend all rehearsals and performances. These students still perform at ALL games and contests.
6. Students may lose their spot by being absent, not having their drill pouches, being disrespectful, or not being able to perform the spot. (musically and/or marching)

If a student is in danger of failing an academic class, that student’s spot may be given to an alternate.

Marching Band Uniforms

These rules must be followed when wearing a Mansfield High School Band Uniform:

1. The uniform must always look clean and well kept.
2. The current year’s band T-shirt (or prescribed t-shirt) must be worn underneath the coat.
3. The designated band shorts must be under the trousers/bibbers.
4. Black athletic knee-length socks are to be worn. (No dress/nylon socks.)
5. Shoes are to be cleaned and polished before every performance.
6. The pant length is to not overlap the marching shoe.

7. All pants must be hemmed to appropriate length. (Pants are to be folded and sewn, but never cut.) Only MHS Band Uniform Committee members may hem the uniform pants. Please do not do this at home!
8. **THERE IS NO EATING OR DRINKING OF ANYTHING OTHER THAN WATER WHILE IN UNIFORM!!!!!!!!!!!!**
9. No public displays of affection will be allowed while in uniform.
10. All of it or none of it! When instructed, the students must have the uniform fully on and fully zipped and buttoned. A band member should NEVER look sloppy while in uniform.
11. No jewelry is to be worn with the uniform. (This includes watches, ear/nose/brow-rings, etc.)
12. The band cap will need to be worn correctly at all times
13. Body jewelry and art are not to be visible while in uniform.
14. No headgear of any kind except for the band hat/cap. **(This includes bandanas and do-rags.)**
15. We do not run while in uniform. This looks unprofessional and can lead to falling which will damage both you and your pants.
16. When wearing any part of the uniform, it must be worn correctly. (fully zipped, cap, facing the correct way, etc.)

When wearing the Mansfield Marching Band Uniform, all students should behave like perfect ladies and gentlemen. No profanity, rowdiness, rudeness, or disrespect for anyone will be tolerated while in uniform! Remember you now represent the band, the school, your family, and the community of Mansfield

Buses

Bus rides are to be fun. However, there are rules that must be followed:

1. The Bus driver and parent chaperones are in charge of the students while on the busses. Please mind them and do as they ask.
2. No food or drink, other than water from your water backpack, on the buses.
3. Students are to be well-behaved while on busses. This includes NO cursing or offensive conversations! Do not disrespect yourself by being disrespectful to others.
4. Students will stay in the proper uniform until told to change.
5. Stay seated while the bus is in motion.
6. The noise level while on the bus must be kept at a soft level- to ensure the safety for all.
7. Always mind and thank the bus driver for safely getting you to your destination.
8. All rules posted on the bus apply to the band members.
9. **While in any parking lot, all students are asked to be silent! –This is a Tiger Band Tradition and will be adhered to!!!!**
Students who can not follow the bus rules may be restricted in their participation of performance/competitions.

Games

1. At all games the band will perform throughout the entire game. Once we arrive back at the school there will be a short meeting for all students in the band hall. During this time we ask for help from all parents in unloading the truck.
2. Band students are to be great supporters of the school's clubs and teams, no matter how bleak the outcome may be. **As the largest organization on campus, we must show all groups that we have school spirit and are continuously and energetically promoting our teams!**

3. While at the games the band is at work. Our job is to provide entertainment and support. Students should not be focused on anything else (i.e. talking and/or texting on their phones)
4. All school rules regarding behavior and **cell phones** still apply. Students caught breaking these rules will be subject to the usual corrective procedures.
5. All students will ride back to the school on the district busses. Once back at MHS, we will have a brief meeting, correctly hang up the marching band uniforms, organize the band room, and be dismissed. (Only on the buses are students allowed to use their cell phones. Students are encouraged to call their parents to arrange a pick up time) Parents should sign up for the parent remind101 messages. This will be the way to get the most up-to-date and current information. **It is important that you allow push notifications!**

Consequences:

Students who do not follow the rules and expectations (i.e. attendance at pep rallies, attitude while in rehearsal, punctuality and attendance, behavior in and outside of class) set forth in this handbook may be restricted from participating at events with the band. This includes but is not limited to the participation at football games, parades, pep-rallies, concerts, and contests. Students who do not pass off the required music will have restrictions when it comes to attending and performing at football games. Students will still be expected to attend all rehearsals regardless of their ability to participate in performances or contests. Once a student has been restricted from participation, a conference is required with the director, student, and parents before the student may regain the privilege of participation. If the student continues to not follow the rules and expectations of the band, he/she will be removed from the band program.

Communications

Announcements: In addition to discussing during class and after school rehearsal, we make a strong effort to post important information through remind101. All students and parents need to enroll in the correct remind classes **and allow push-notifications.**

REMINDER: Directors will not get messages through remind101. If you need to contact a director, please email them.

REMIND CODES:

MHS Band (*all students*) @mhs-band24

Parents @24par25

Flute @mhs-flts24

Clarinet @mhs-clts24

Saxophone @mhs-reed24

Trumpet @mhs-tpts24

Horn @mhs-hrnz24

Trombone @mhs-tbns24

Tuba & Euphonium @mhs-bass24

Percussion @mhs-perc24

Color Guard @2425mhscg

Web Page: The MHS band web page is located at www.mhsband.com. It's a great resource for all events, information, schedules, maps, sign-ups, etc. We suggest making this your homepage to keep up with events throughout the year.

Private lessons and masterclass:

It is important that you NOT have your private lesson at the same time you are in masterclass.

The typical masterclass schedule is: (the first hour of class)

Tuesdays:

Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone, Tuba/Euph

Wednesdays:

Trumpet, Horn, Trombone

Each week in masterclass you will focus on a specific chunk of music. That chunk of music will be your playing test the next week. You will have one week to learn and practice that chunk of music. You will be asked to play for a band director and/or to play in front of the class.... Please take this seriously and be prepared!