

“The Spirit of Spring Mills”

Cardinals Marching Band

Band Handbook Fall 2024

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SMHS Band Handbook #1 - Eligibility and Attendance Requirements

Grade 9-12 Eligibility:

Everyone who plays an instrument must be enrolled in a band class to be eligible to participate in Marching Band. Band classes are open to all SMHS students regardless of experience (see Concert Ensembles, page 4).

Grade 8 Eligibility:

8th grade band members at SMHS area middle schools are eligible to participate in Marching Band at the discretion of both the high school and middle school directors. Prospective members will be evaluated during conditioning to determine if early entry into Marching Band will be developmentally appropriate. Students must remain in good standing in their middle school band in terms of attendance, rehearsal participation and behavior, and concert attendance to maintain marching band eligibility.

- **All members must have a hard copy of a completed WVSSAC Sports Physical Form dated May 1 2024 or later on file with the Band Director by the beginning of camp indicating doctor's approval to participate.**

Attendance: Per the BCS Program of Studies, marching season, including practices and performances outside the school day, is a required co-curricular part of participating in band and is the basis for students' 1st quarter grade. Students who do not complete the marching band requirement will be graded in the form of weekly playing tests.

Spring/Summer Rehearsals:

- Spring Conditioning: May 13, 15, 16, and 17, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
- Band Camp: August 5-9 and 12-16, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. (Individual sections TBA)

Practices outside the school day:

Practice will be held after school Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:00-4:45 through the last regular season football game. Missing practice, including coming late or leaving early, is grounds for being held out of performances until the student demonstrates they can march the drill safely; repeated absences are grounds for being removed from the marching show for the season.

Marching Band and Fall Sports: (NEW FOR 2024)

Students who want to play an SMHS Fall sport can be assigned a smaller role in Marching Band that will still satisfy the requirements and allow them to play in a concert ensemble all year. This must be coordinated with Mr. Cheek before Band Camp.

SMHS Band Handbook #2: Communication

Communication is vital to make a group this size function smoothly. These services are how we will communicate.

Website: www.smhsband.net

This is where the online calendar can be found. The calendar updates instantly when information is added or changed.

BAND app: (NEW FOR 2024) Students will use the same app used by the football team, Theatre department, and FFA. It will send messages, has a news feed that works like other social media, and has a calendar and space for files so all information can be found in one place. Parents are also encouraged to use it so everyone is looking at the same information, but it is understood receiving notifications meant for students such as “wear your red band shirt today” or “eat 1st lunch, then report for the pep rally” can get tedious.

“Private chat rooms”: Parents of a similar age as Mr. Cheek remember this phrase from the beginnings of the Internet, and this phrase is why I have been hesitant to switch to this app even though it is the best on the market. All parents should be aware that when the BAND app uses the phrase “private chat room” it means it is internal for those in our organization and cannot be accessed by outsiders - if our information was set to “public” it would be searchable by anyone with internet access. **ALL COMMUNICATION WITHIN THE BAND APP IS ARCHIVED AND CANNOT BE DELETED FROM THEIR SERVERS, EVEN IF A PERSON LEAVES THE ORGANIZATION.** All communications can be reviewed by school administration or law enforcement if necessary.

Director email: hcheek@k12.wv.us.

Group email: Parents will periodically receive group emails through a service called My Music Office. These will generally be once a week through football season.

Text: 240-406-4356. This is a Google Voice number that does not ring. Parents may receive group texts regarding travel updates. This number is not for student use.

Grades will be posted on Schoology like other classes and can be accessed 24 hours a day.

SMHS Band Handbook #3 - Financial information

Fees:

Band Camp fee (all participants): \$50

This helps pay for extra instructors, snacks, & drinks.

Uniform fees: (NEW FOR 2024)

Instrument players will not pay uniform fees. All players are responsible for ordering their own bibbers and shoes. A link to our preferred vendor will be posted on the website, but you may order from any band uniform vendor of your choice.

Required uniform pieces:

- Bibbers: White Deluxe Bibbers
- Shoes: White Styleplus Pinnacle Marching Shoe

Color Guard: Uniform fee \$150 for uniform pieces and shoes. Since uniforms change yearly, the staff will collect money and place a group order. Shoes may be reused year to year.

- In case of financial hardship, contact the Band Booster Treasurer to work out payment plans or additional concession shifts.

Band Boosters:

The SMHS Band Booster organization includes all parents or guardians of current band members and other adult members of the community committed to providing assistance for the band. There is no application or membership fee.

The Band's major fundraiser is operating the concession stands for Freshman, JV, and Varsity football and Boys' and Girls' soccer. This makes the months of September and October very busy, but this income enables us to keep our fees low. Each family is needed to provide at least one volunteer to work at one varsity football game (this person must be an adult) and two other games (band members may volunteer to work at other games).

Meetings will be held on the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Band room. They are open to all Booster members, not just elected officers. Meetings include a financial report, discussion of upcoming Band events, and organizing work crews.

SMHS Band Handbook #4 - Concert Ensembles (NEW FOR 2024)

These are the daily class periods where students are scheduled. All members will play a placement audition so they can be scheduled into the appropriate section for their experience level. Each ensemble will receive a detailed syllabus of class policies at the beginning of school.

	Concert Band	Symphonic Band
	Brass/Woodwinds 4th period Percussion 2nd period	5th period
Level of music performed	Basic	Advanced
Section numbers limited to maintain balance?	No	Yes
Daily class organization and focus	Band is split into daily Brass+Woodwind and Percussion classes. Focus is on building skills by progressing through the method book.	Meets daily as a combined Brass/Woodwind/Percussion ensemble. Focus is on preparing music for performances.
Marching Band requirement	Expected	Mandatory
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All Marching Band participants are excused from weekly playing tests throughout marching season. 1st quarter grades will be based on Marching Band participation. 2. A Symphonic Band member who ceases Marching Band participation will be dropped from the class. 	
Performance requirements	Fall/Winter/Spring concerts Graduation	Fall/Winter/Spring concerts Marching season (football games/parades/competitions) Adjudication Possible Spring amusement park trip Graduation
Playing test materials	Weekly playing quizzes from method books.	Playing assessments taken from concert music and All State Band audition scales and etudes.
Varsity Letter eligibility	Based on Marching Band participation.	

SMHS Band Handbook #5 - Drumline Auditions

Auditions: May 16 & 17, 6:00-8:00 p.m., during conditioning. You must audition to be placed on the Drumline.

Location: SMHS Band room - door #19 in the back of the school, between the green dumpsters and the greenhouse.

Spring Conditioning/Audition prep: May 13, 15, 16, & 17, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

- *For every practice bring your sticks, a practice pad or snare drum with cover, and a water bottle and dress in athletic clothes, including athletic shoes.*

Audition Material: Taken from Frank Chappell's "The Packet"

- Everyone must play sheets 1-1 and 1-5.
- Play sheet 1-24 to be considered for snare.
- Play sheets 1-24 and 3-6 to be considered for tenors.
- Sightreading
- Rhythm counting
- Ability to keep time

Audition Results:

- Drumline audition: Results will be sent out on the Band app and posted on the website.
- Concert Band class auditions: All who audition will be assigned to either 5th period Symphonic Band or 2nd period Percussion class. The results of this audition have no effect on Drumline placement.

Continuing Attendance Requirement: Any Drumline member who does not maintain attendance at practice may be switched to an easier part or removed from the line.

SMHS Band Handbook #6 - Color Guard Tryouts

The color guard is the visual section of the marching band. It adds interest to the show with color, dance, and using props like flags.

Guard has the same eligibility rules as outlined on page 1. No experience in dance or music is required, so there is a place for everybody.

Tryouts: Practice and tryouts will be held May 13,15,16, and 17 from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

- Wear active clothes and athletic shoes.
- Long hair should be put up.
- Bring a water bottle.

Location: SMHS Band room - door #19 in the back of the school, between the green dumpsters and the greenhouse.

What to prepare: No prepared tryout is required. You will practice the fundamentals of marching in time, introductory flag techniques, and some basic dance steps.

Tryout Results: At the end of the week, you will be assigned to an ability-level group based on your progress and coachability. Results will be posted on the BAND app and the website. The goal is for everyone from beginner through advanced levels to have a role assigned that is achievable within the practice time we have so band will be an enjoyable experience for all.

- Everyone who maintains practice attendance will perform in the football pregame show, parades, and pep rallies.
- Members who demonstrate the basics of flag techniques and marching in time will also perform in the football halftime/competition show.

Continuing Attendance Requirement: Any Guard member who does not maintain attendance at practice may be switched to a modified role or dismissed.

SMHS Band Handbook #7 - Preliminary Fall Schedule**Updated 4/22/24**

DATE	REPORT	EVENT
F 8/30	5:45	Home FB vs. Jefferson
F 9/13	5:45	Home FB vs. South Hagerstown
F 9/20	5:45	Home FB vs. Musselman
Sat 9/21	TBA	Competition at SMHS
Sat 9/28	TBA	Competition at Martinsburg
F 10/4	TBA	Away FB at Washington
Sat 10/12	TBA	Competition at Musselman
F 10/18	6:00	Home FB vs. University
Sat 10/19	TBA	Apple Harvest parade
Sat 10/19	TBA	Regionals at Musselman
F 10/25	6:00	Home FB vs. Martinsburg
F 11/1	6:00	Home FB vs. Parkersburg South
F 11/8	TBA	Away FB at Hedgesville
Sat 11/9?	TBA	Martinsburg Veterans Day parade
11/15 or 16	TBA	Football playoffs
11/22 or 23	TBA	Football playoffs
11/29 or 30	TBA	Football playoffs
Th 12/5?	TBA	Martinsburg Christmas parade
12/6 or 7	TBA	Football State Championship

Notes:

- This schedule is dependent on outside organizations providing information to participating bands. Changes or updates will be posted on the website/BAND app calendar as soon as they are received.
- Band members are to be dressed and in their seat ready to play at the posted report time.

Performance dress code:

- In-school pep rallies, hallway parades, and athletic sendoffs: red band shirt with school dress code appropriate bottoms. Face painting, pep rally jewelry, etc., are allowed.
- All other marching band events: full band uniform.

SMHS Band Handbook #8 - Signature Page

Parents, please sign below to indicate you have received a Band Handbook and that the student has permission to participate and to travel with the band as noted on the calendar.

We understand:

- That all students must have a WVSSAC physical form indicating medical approval to participate;
- The importance of attendance at practices and events;
- The communication tools used to stay informed about practices, performances, and grades;
- The financial responsibilities associated with band membership, including fees, uniforms, and the need for parental involvement with concessions;
- That all instrumentalists will be evaluated and placed in an appropriate class based on their level of achievement;
- The audition process for Drumline and Color Guard;
- That Band is an active, not a passive, activity, and that students' progress on their instrument will reflect the effort with which they put teaching into practice;
- That students are responsible for bringing necessary materials to class every day and managing their personal behavior, both in person and online, so that the education of others is not disrupted; and
- That students who habitually disrupt the learning process will be referred to administration for removal from the Band program.

Student

Parent/Guardian