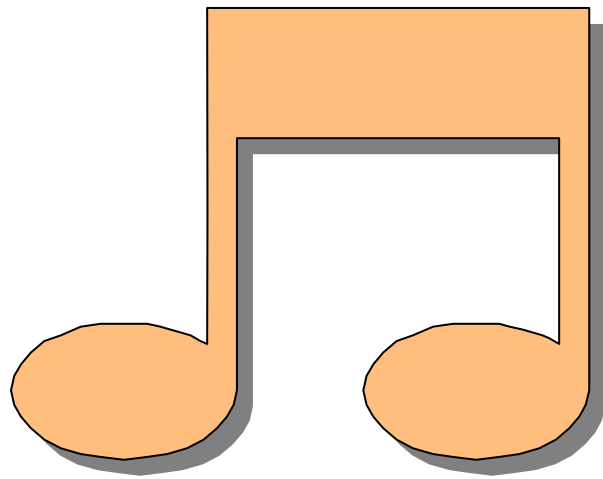


Montour High School Marching Band



Member Handbook
2007-2008

Purpose

The purpose of this handbook is to provide valuable information about the Montour High School Marching Band Program. To consistently achieve and maintain the high standard of excellence desired by this organization, members and parents should familiarize themselves with the regulations and procedures of the Montour High School Marching Band.

Music Department Philosophy

The mission and purpose of the Montour Music Department is to provide students with the opportunity to perform in several musical settings including marching band, concert band, percussion ensembles, jazz ensemble, concert choir, and the freshman ensemble. These musical ensembles will always strive to achieve the highest level of performance through practice, hard work, private lessons and most importantly pride. In order to achieve the highest possible level of performance, it is recommended that all marching band members be enrolled in one of the daily ensembles offered at the high school. Squad members who play a musical instrument are also strongly encouraged to enroll in a curricular instrumental or vocal ensemble.

Organizational Philosophy

Marching Band is for all students who play an instrument, or have the ability to dance, twirl a baton or spin a flag. Membership is open to all Montour High School Students. However, percussion students and squad members must audition for their positions.

Auditions are held during the month of May each year. The Marching Band practices through the summer and in the evening two nights per week during football season. They perform at varsity football games, band festivals, community events and parades. Band camp is the first full week in August each year (Sunday through Friday) and Pre-Band Camp is the week before Band Camp (Monday-Friday). Pre-camp and Band Camp are mandatory rehearsal for all band members.

Music Department Policies

General Policy

Since the Montour School District and Montour High School sanction the Montour High School Music Ensembles, all district and school regulations are in effect during all music department activities. Infractions will be dealt with according to the policies of the school district. Please refer to the Montour High School Student Handbook.

Director's Discretion

This handbook is only meant to serve as a guide for the Montour High School Marching Band Base Policies. Any areas not covered by this guide will use policies as determined by the director(s).

Attendance

General Excuse Policy

- All excused absences must be handled in writing
- A note signed by a parent/guardian must be submitted to the ensemble's secretary *prior* to the missed rehearsal/performance to be considered an excused absence.
- In the case of illness or emergency, a signed note must be submitted to the ensemble's secretary at the next attended rehearsal/performance to be considered an excused absence.

Performance & Rehearsal

Students are expected to attend all scheduled rehearsals and performances. Students will be excused for illness, death in the family, religious holiday, school related activity such as PSAT, SAT & ACTS Testing, academic competitions, & other extra curricular activities (see Conflicts with Other Extra Curricular Activities below).

Conflicts with Other Extra Curricular Activities

Conflicts with other school related activities and athletics will be excused only if approval is granted *in advance* of the event. When there is a conflict with a school related activity, to which the student belongs, the member must attend *at least half* of the scheduled rehearsal time each week in order to perform that week. For example, if there are two marching band rehearsals scheduled, you must attend one of the two or you will not be permitted to perform.

Schedule Changes

In the event a late change is made to a scheduled performance or rehearsal, students are encouraged to make every effort to adapt to that change. If ample notice of the change is not possible, the policy on absence will be adjusted accordingly.

Work

Work is not acceptable as an excuse *under any circumstance*. Work is a choice. Students that must work should inform their employer of their obligation to the band and in most cases they will be happy to work around the band schedule.

Absences

- Students that have an unexcused absence from a scheduled performance will be ineligible to participate in the next scheduled performance. Students will be expected to attend the event in full uniform and perform with the band in the stands, but not in the Pre-Game or Half-time Activities
- Students who are absent from two scheduled rehearsals in a week, excused or unexcused, will be ineligible to perform in the next scheduled performance, but are expected to attend.
- Tardiness will be considered $\frac{1}{2}$ an unexcused absence.
- Students with two or more unexcused absences may be dismissed from the group.

Behavior/Preparation

General Behavior Expectations

Students participating in Marching Band are expected to follow all Montour School District Policies. Inappropriate behavior, including harassment, improper interpersonal behavior, destruction of school property, possession and/or use of tobacco, tobacco products, drugs, alcohol, or weapons, fighting and/or use of profanity will be handled through the existing district procedures.

Food Policy

When in the stands during a football game/band festival/any band performance, parents may NOT bring their child food or drink. Students may not bring any food or drink into the stands.

Travel/Transportation

1. All persons traveling on district buses are members of the Marching Band and students at Montour High School.
2. Students must report to inspection in **full uniform** prior to all events.
3. Uniform condition will be evaluated at inspection before each event and roll will be taken.
4. Playing members will board buses wearing uniform trousers, a band shirt, and band shoes.
5. Jackets and raincoats are to be carried on the bus in the garment bag.
6. Consider the weather report and use discretions.
7. **There will be NO changing of clothes on the buses. If a student is caught doing this they will sit out for the next performance.**

Performances

Students may be asked to sit out of a performance for any of the following reasons:

1. Student does not comply with inspection guidelines (see Block Band)
2. Do not know drill or music
3. Cannot stay in step for extended periods of time

4. Behavior infractions
5. Do not have their instrument
6. Do not have all of the items needed to perform
7. Fail to complete and return medical forms, contract, and other information.

Commitment

As members of the Montour High School Marching Band, you understand that:

1. You are expected to follow the guidelines and rules as explained in the Handbook
2. Infractions of policies may result in suspending a member from participating in events
3. That at all times during participation in the ensemble, members represent the Montour School District, and that the rules set forth in the Montour High School Student Handbook prevail.

Block Band

Block band is a term that refers to the time band members should be ready to step off for performance or to board buses for an event. Students should arrive at school at least 15 minutes prior to block band to dress for inspection and roll call. Students will be expected to stand in rank for uniform inspection and roll call during block band. Section leaders will inspect for the following at block band:

1. Students wearing the uniform in an inappropriate manner
2. Uniform is unkempt, wrinkled or stained due to poor care.
3. Shoes, spats and gloves are not cleaned and/or polished.
4. Shoulder length hair or longer should be dressed in a manner so that it can be tucked underneath marching hat. Auxiliary squad hair should be dressed in a manner to be determined by the auxiliary coach.
5. Excessive jewelry such as hoop earrings, multiple piercing and necklaces that show over the uniform.
6. Students hair and facial hair groomed in an unkempt or inappropriate manner.

Students who do not comply with inspection guidelines will be asked to sit out of the performance and will perform managerial duties for that performance.

Band Camp Guidelines

1. Montour is a guest at Slippery Rock University. Represent the band and school district with only the highest standard of behavior.
2. Students are not permitted to leave the campus at any time & are only permitted in areas designated by the director.
3. Report any damage in your room to your chaperone upon arrival. Any damage found after your stay in the room will be charged to you and your roommates.
4. Keep your room in good condition during your stay.
5. Strictly observe the lights out and quiet times on the camp schedule.
6. Report to every planned event (buses, rehearsals, and meals) on time.
7. Drink plenty of water. Wear sunscreen. Hats and sunglasses are recommended.
8. If you experience any problems, chaperones are there to advise you. Report any problems to a chaperone or any of the directors. The camp nurse will be there in the event of an emergency
9. Students may be sent home at their parent's expense for major infractions such as violations of the drug and alcohol policy, being in unauthorized areas, violation of curfew, fighting, insubordination, etc...

Band Member Information Hotline

Students and parents should refer to the Montour Band Member Information Hotline for information and updates regarding all Montour Band rehearsals and performances. 412-490-6500 Band Member ext. 1700; Band Parent and Fundraiser Information ext. 1701

Contact Information

Cyndi Mancini

E-mail mancinic@mail.montourschools.com
 Phone 412-264-5140 Ext. 4034 (During School Hours)

Contract of Mutual Consent

I, the undersigned student, accept membership in the Montour High School Band and understand I am responsible for all policies set forth in the band handbook. I fully agree to carry out my responsibilities to the very best of my ability.

 Student Signature

 Date

I, the undersigned parent or guardian, have read and understand the policies as set forth in the band handbook. I also grant full permission for my child to be an active member of the Montour High School Marching Band. In addition, my child has full permission to attend all band functions. Furthermore, I understand that I must meet all financial obligations.

 Parent Signature

 Date

Type of Instrument(s)_____

Manufacturer_____

Serial Number_____

Parent E-mail Address_____

Parent Phone Number_____