

Maryville Spoofhound Band Handbook



"We are what we repeatedly do.

Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit" Aristotle

Band Staff

Directors:

- Mr. Nathaniel Wehmeyer, wehmeyer@maryviller2.com
- Mr. Jeremy Krug, krug@maryviller2.com

Color Guard: TBA when position is filled

- Join our Remind texting group. Send a text to: 81010, and the text message subject is: @spoofofband
- Stay up to date with our band program: www.maryvillebands.com

Chain of Command

School Administrators

Directors

Special Staff/Instructors

Chaperones/Band Boosters

Drum Majors

Section Leaders

Band Members

“The difference between a successful person and others is not a lack in strength, not a lack of knowledge, but (rather) a lack in will.” (Vince Lombardi)

Attitude

Students that have a positive mental attitude, will always have a place in the bands at Maryville High School. Regardless of your ability, if your attitude is not positive and you are not doing your personal best to make the group successful, you should not be a part of this organization. Those who have pride in themselves will usually project a positive mental attitude. Characteristics of a positive mental attitude include a generally cheerful outlook towards rehearsals and performances, cooperation in the preparation and maintenance of equipment and facilities, and an eagerness to do whatever is necessary to be successful. In short, the ideal band member is someone who will always give his or her best for the good of the organization.

Spoofhound Marching Band

The Spoofhound Marching Band is the most visible and recognizable group in the Maryville Band Program. Membership is required of all students who are members of the other performing band ensembles here at Maryville.

The Spoofhound Marching Band performs at: The Nodaway County Fair Parade, all Maryville High School home football games, state football, marching competitions, and the Northwest Homecoming Parade. *The marching band rehearses every Wednesday and Friday morning during the fall season from 7:00am to 8:44am. Indoor Drumline Rehearses from 6:45am to 7:30a.m on Tuesdays and Thursdays.* **Attendance at all rehearsals and performances is required.**

Occasionally, the need for marching band sectionals may arise. Sectionals often encompass a small ensemble from within the band that needs special attention for one reason or another. The directors will always give sufficient notice of these sectionals. Likewise, attendance is mandatory in order to earn credit towards a band letter.

Concert Band

The Maryville High School Symphonic Band is a group comprised of students who performed with the marching band. This band will often perform music at varying grade-levels and students involved in this group are often competitive and have a strong desire to make spectacular music.

Regular performances by the Concert Band include a winter concert, which is shared with the Middle School bands, State Band Contest, the spring concert, which is shared with the Middle School bands, baccalaureate, and Graduation. All members are highly encouraged to audition for the All-District Band and the All-State Band if they meet the requirements.

Winter, Spring Concert & State Contest: **ALL BLACK.** An **ALL BLACK** uniform is timeless, has no margin for inconsistency and looks sharp. Top performing groups always wear all black. Boys need **ALL BLACK:** shoes, long socks, slacks, and shirt, boys may wear a tie, as long as it is all black, ties are optional though. Girls may wear an **ALL BLACK** dress, or skirt with a blouse, girls may also wear black pants if they don't want to wear a black dress or skirt, finally black shoes. The dress or skirt must go past the knees when sitting.

Pep Band

The Pep Band is the second most visible group of the MHS band program. The pep band performs exciting music in various genres at boys and girls basketball games, all these games are always on the band schedule for the spring semester. Attendance at pep band games is **MANDATORY** in order to earn credit towards a band letter.

Percussion Orchestra

Percussion Orchestra rehearses during the Pep Band games. This ensemble performs at our State Large Ensemble Festival

Jazz Band

The Maryville High School Jazz Band is a group primarily comprised of band department students. Only students that play drum set, electric guitar, bass guitar, piano, or (occasionally) vocal parts are accepted, on an as needed basis without enrollment in the concert band, and/or the marching band.

Students in Jazz Band are encouraged to audition for the All-District and the All-State Jazz Ensemble if they meet the requirements. The Jazz Band performs at the Northwest Jazz Festival, Winter and Spring Concerts, night of jazz fundraiser, and any other possibly gigs that may arise. Jazz Band begins after marching season wraps up. Rehearsals are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:50 a.m to 7:45 a.m.

Indoor Drumline (Fall)

Indoor drumline has camp in the summer, to put together the show. Attendance at summer camp is **MANDATORY** to be a part of this ensemble. During the school year, this ensemble rehearses at 6:45a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays,

attendance at rehearsal is **MANDATORY** if students plan on performing with this group, no exceptions. We compete with this ensemble at every festival that the marching band competes at that holds this category of competition.

Color guard

The color guard is an auditioned group. Clinics are given before auditions occur. Attendance at the clinics is required if a student plans on doing an audition. We have two different opportunities for color guard membership: field & parade in the fall, and possibly winter guard. Practices are coordinated and set up with the guard coach. Attendance at all practices and camps is **MANDATORY** if students plan on performing with the group, no exceptions. However, in the winter guard season, members who play instruments in band must be at pep band performances over practices with the winter group if those times overlap.

Expectations

1. Students will attend each rehearsal, performance, and concert.
2. Students will be on time for each rehearsal and performance. **Early is on time, on time is late!**
3. Students will have their instrument and all nec at each rehearsal.
4. Students will dress appropriately for rehearsal and performances and concerts, please refer to uniform section for more specific details on Marching Uniform Rules. Concert Uniform is **ALL BLACK** for the spring concert and state band contest. Students are allowed to participate in the “ugly sweater” tradition for our uniform for the winter concert.
5. Students will practice their music and marching outside of class.
6. Students will contribute *POSITIVELY* to the group effort.
7. **Remember: Excuses, even good ones, do not make great bands!**

Rules

1. All school rules are in effect at all rehearsals, performances, and marching band functions.
2. Chewing gum is NOT PERMITTED.
3. Cell phones are not allowed during rehearsal or on the marching field. Likewise, they cannot be used during events. Yes, they can be used after events.
4. No food or drink, with the exception of water, is not allowed inside the band room, ever. Lunch will **NOT** be eaten in the band room during Spoofohour hour, ever.
5. Public displays of affection are not allowed while on “band time.” Please remember, this is a band function...not a date. If you want to date a band member, go somewhere else after practice.
6. RESPECT other peoples’ property. IF IT’S NOT YOURS, DON’T TOUCH IT! Do not play on or touch instruments other than your own.
7. Never disrespect another band member or its members. Always CHEER for other bands!
8. Show respect to all directors, administrators, teachers, staff, and parents at all times.
9. Keep your language clean...you never know who may be listening.
10. Remember, to sound and look like a *class act*, we must act like one. Do not do anything that would have to be explained. Always conduct yourselves as ladies and gentlemen.

Band Fees

Band Fees are a necessary evil in our program. They are the primary means by which we maintain equipment for students during marching band festivals, pay additional staff, and mostly pay for marching band uniform cleaning. The Band Fee is \$30. This small fee to be a part of this great family can be paid for by simply fundraising. This student band account can be used for band dues, and most importantly as a means to pay for the annual band trip that is every 4 years. ***Students that have unpaid band fees, guard fees, or drum line fees for uniforms at the end of the school year will be reported to the***

*school and, therefore, will not be able to receive his or her report card, or any transcripts sent to colleges until the fees have been paid in full. **NO EXCEPTIONS.***

Insubordination

Insubordinate behavior will not be tolerated. Disrespectful acts committed by any member results in an immediate office referral. Extreme acts will result in a referral to a school administrator for disciplinary action. It will also be highly suggested that the student who is being referred be expelled from the band department. NO EXCEPTIONS!

Facilities Usage

The maintenance of a facility like our band room is a large task. The manner in which it is maintained is a reflection of the pride in our organization and the respect we have developed for one another. Observance of the following rules will insure a well-kept room, reduction in instrument maintenance accidents, and will simply lighten the burden on everyone involved.

1. No gum, candy, food, or drinks (except water) are allowed in the band room.
2. All trash should be placed in the trash cans located at both doors. This includes broken reeds, reed cases, paper, broken pencils, etc.
3. Do not move chairs or stands once they are set-up unless instructed to do so by a director.
4. At the end of each rehearsal, all chairs should be neatly stacked and all stands should be neatly replaced on the stand carts. All woodwind and brass instruments should be completely disassembled and stored in it's case. Never put an instrument in a cubby still put together. All percussion Sticks and Mallets should be kept in the proper place and kept organized.
5. Do not write on chairs, stands, or any other school property.
6. Do not write on the white board or place unapproved messages or signs on the bulletin board(s) without permission.
7. Do not remove or disturb items on the bulletin board.
8. Store your instrument in your instrument cubby. Never leave them on the floor or outside overnight. Because of the liability of a damaged or lost instrument, instruments left on the floor or outside will be locked in the band office and only released to the student or his/her parent.
9. Do not play on any instrument that does not belong to you. This includes all percussion equipment, mallets, and sticks, and also DO NOT TAKE other band members lyre or flip folder!
10. The storage and practice rooms, office-which is not a place for socializing, and director's podium are off limits to students without the permission of a director.

Grading Policy

Grades are determined by your attendance, participation, effort, and skills.

- Rehearsal Attendance, *Camps are considered rehearsals, but are lumped together. If a student misses an entire camp and it is unexcused, it can majorly affect the student's grade in a negative manner.*
- Performance Attendance
 - *Performances are an integral part of the band, therefore students are required to attend all performances. **Any missed performance will result in an almost full-letter grade drop from the individual's grade.** Missed performances will be examined by the band staff on a case-by-case basis.*
 - Final Exams are given in the form of performances. In some instances we may have a written portion as well. Students will be given plenty of notice prior to any written exams. Likewise, please review the MHS Attendance Policy in the Attendance section of this document. Likewise, review the MHS Attendance Incentive Policy.
- Playing Tests

- Students are expected to have their music (and marching) prepared at every rehearsal. A successful band program's members are always growing in their achievement. Directors will check this growth with playing tests from time to time.

Attendance Policy

Band practices and performances are mandatory. Any request for an exception must be submitted in writing and approved by the directors *two weeks* in advance of the conflicting date, except in emergency situations. Work is not an acceptable excuse for missing any band event. Our schedule will always be announced far enough in advance to avoid conflicts. The entire band years schedule is always put together and passed out in May of the previous school year. This should make everything quite clear as to when band events occur. The band schedule is also present on the band website in case you lose your hard copy. Extra copies are always available in the band room as well.

Parents: please make every effort to schedule regular doctor's appointments around the band's schedule whenever possible. If additions to the schedule are necessary, as timely as possible notice will be given. Due to the unpredictable nature of our class (weather, scheduling conflicts, etc), cancellations of rehearsals and performances may occur at any time; however, we will attempt to give parents and students as much advance notice as possible. Students are responsible for arriving at each rehearsal and performance on time and properly prepared (clothing, instrument, music, etc). Parents are urged to see that their child take this responsibility very seriously.

Excusable Absences:

- Sick from school
- Doctor's Appointments
- Death in the family
- Religious holidays

Non-Excused Absences:

- Homework (you must learn to manage your time well)
- Birthday
- Family Reunion
- Work (make arrangements with your employer early, band schedules are always made well in advance)
- Transportation; i.e. you didn't have a ride. (your section leader can help you find a carpool within the band),

If You *Must* Be Absent

Parents should notify the attendance office each day the student is absent. Students not excused from school by parent/guardian will be considered truant. Work missed because of truancy may not be completed for credit. For any MHS class, it is the student's responsibility to check with the teacher(s) as to work missed during the absence and procedure to follow. Should the student choose not to contact the teacher(s) within five school days and make arrangements for work missed, the teacher is absolved of any responsibility for the student's negligence in this matter and will record an grade of "F/0" for each of the assignments missed during the absence.

Please understand that performances are the same as exams in other classes. Since there is not way to "make up" these events, *missing an event is equivalent to not taking an exam and receiving a zero as a grade.*

Uniform

The Maryville High School band uniform is a symbol of a tradition of pride and excellence of all those who have been a part of the development of this program. When in uniform, remember that you represent your community, your school, and your band. What you do and the manner in which you do it will reflect on us all.

All members are measured and issued a uniform number at the beginning of each year. Once checked out before performances, it is the student's responsibility to maintain the uniform in the condition it was received. Under no circumstances should any uniform alterations be made without the prior consent of one of the band booster uniform parents. Failure to follow this policy may result in the replacement of the uniform at the student's expense.

Hair: hair that is longer than collar-length must be secured and worn up in the marching hat.

Jewelry: jewelry and watches are not permitted during performances.

Accessories: (hats/headbands) headbands may be worn under the hat so long as they are not visible. Hats and caps *are not* permitted.

Miscellaneous modifications: Do not modify your uniform with any pins, stickers, or other accessories unless approved by a director.

Marching Uniform Rules

1. Stay in FULL uniform until you are directed to remove any part. **Wear the uniform correctly or not at all; NEVER PARTIALLY.**
2. You should always have your uniform t-shirt under your uniform. We are also adding mesh shorts with our Spoofhound Band logo as part of our "half uniform." If you need a new band t-shirt or shorts, those are available for purchase.
3. Do not let any part of your uniform touch the ground, EVER.
4. Students must have a pair of black marching band shoes. These are available for purchase and are ordered during uniform fitting times.
5. All students are expected to wear our mesh shorts underneath their band pants. This is so when we are at contests, changing is much easier and no undergarments are exposed.
6. Full length, black socks are the only socks that are to be worn in full uniform.
7. Black Gloves are required for wind players, these are available for \$5/pair after you are given your first pair for free.

Guidelines for Game Behavior

The primary function of ensembles during games aside from the main performance is to provide support for the school team from the stands in conjunction with the cheerleaders, color guard, or dance team. To accomplish this idea, it is necessary to follow the following rules and regulations:

1. After warming-up for the football games we will line-up and initiate the trek to the stadium. During this time we will parade to the stadium while performing the drumline cadences. Once we arrive at the field the band will continue on the track where we will do the pre-game performance.
2. Once you have taken a seat in your proper section, you are to stay in that place unless moved by a director.
3. Unless specifically stated by a director, nothing is to be brought in to the stands except music and your instrument. This includes food, drinks (except water).
4. Decoration of instruments is strictly prohibited unless authorized by a director. We do from occasion do this for special events though.
5. Eating food or chewing gum is prohibited in the stands.
6. The band section is off-limits to non-band members. Former students may be allowed to visit or sit in.
7. Do not play your instrument in the stands unless the entire band or an entire section is performing.
8. Always concentrate and pay attention to the task at hand...be ready to play and cheer!
9. Take pride in the sound, appearance, and discipline of your band.
10. At the conclusion of each game, wait for dismissal instructions.
11. All performances are considered academic commitments. Therefore, all school rules are in effect for the entire performance.

Travel Information

Members of the Maryville High School Band Program are required to travel (as a group) many times throughout the year. All members are required to travel with the band.

Any trip with the band is considered an academic commitment. As with any school activity, all school rules are in effect. Any student found in violation will be dealt with according to school policy. In severe cases, students will be referred to the school administration and will be dealt with in accordance with school policy. Chaperones and bus drivers are to always be treated with the great respect, we cannot travel without them! Please be sure to show your appreciation for their services and keep the travel vehicles tidy and neat!

Prior to every bus trip, roll call will always take place. Roll call begins at the set meeting time for the trip, (call time). If you are not present at roll call, section leaders will call the missing students to find out what is going on. However when it is the departure time, the busses **WILL NOT WAIT** for any late comers to arrive. Appointed student groups are responsible for loading all of the equipment. Each student is responsible for his or her instrument, music, and accessories. Failure for a student to not have their required equipment for a performance results in their grade being lowered.

When we are at contests we will also have an appointed group of students who are responsible for unloading the band trailer and setting up our "band camp". Our band camp at contests is to be kept orderly and neat; cases stacked by section and organized. If a student is not going to ride the bus home from a contest, they **MUST** have their parent/ guardian sign out with a director on the appropriate form.

Conflict Resolution

Working as a team can sometimes mean that there will be disagreements and conflicts within that team. This is normal and can be a positive thing for the organization as long as it is handled in a positive manner. There is a right way and a wrong way to handle problems within the band. It is expected that, occasionally, emotions will get the better of us, but it is equally expected that you make every effort to handle conflicts in an adult manner.

- Solve problems off the field. Public disputes interrupt the rehearsal and performance process for everyone.
- Use the chain of command when reporting problems. Your section leader should be the first person to which you report issues. Reporting a minor conflict to the director is inefficient for all involved.
- Try to take a deep breath and remain calm. Yelling can only make problems worse. Emotions can get the best of us if they are not controlled!
- It is often best to walk away from conflicts, many problems are exacerbated with the normal stress of a rehearsal or performance. Once you step away and have a chance to think and relax, you may realize that it wasn't such a big deal after all.
- Praise publicly---criticize privately.

Instruments and Equipment

It is highly recommended that you consult with one of the directors before considering or purchasing a new instrument or mouthpiece; little changes can have dramatic effects. The same is true for any used instruments or equipment. It is quite possible that you could save a great deal of money and time by consulting with a director prior to these things. Students who play on high-quality instruments are often able to do everything much more easily and produce a finer sound than students who play on lesser-quality instruments. It is not uncommon for a good, used professional instrument to be purchased for the price of a lesser-quality student model. Please consult with the directors before a decision is made.

Additional Equipment

- Every brass player must supply his or her valve oil, rotor oil, and slide grease.
- Every woodwind player should always have two working condition reeds and cork grease.
- All percussionists should have their own concert snare sticks **and** mallets
- Each student is responsible for their coordinate book during marching band and turning it in to section leaders.

School-Owned Instruments and Equipment

School-owned instruments and equipment are assigned to students who a) play very expensive instruments such as oboe, bassoon, bass clarinets, tenor and baritone saxophones, horn, large-bore trombones, euphoniums, tubas, and percussion or b) have the need for a school instrument (discretion of directors). These instruments must be checked-out from the directors and are distributed according to the needs of the band. There is also a rental fee of \$75 per year. This fee helps maintain our instruments; such as cleanings, and general maintenance. Instrument fee forms will be handed out at the beginning of each school year. Check are to be made payable to Maryville High School.

Members are responsible for these instruments at all times. Any damage to these instruments caused by neglect will be the student's financial responsibility. Repairs should only be made by those authorized by a director. Likewise, never bring these instruments to a repair shop without director consent.

Maryville High School Band Booster Organization

The Maryville High School Band Boosters Associations sole purpose is to serve the band program. The band boosters are run under the guidance of the band director and through parents. The boosters provide the guidance and workforce to help make things happen for the band program that the district has trouble funding or providing.

Booster members support band and guard functions with service and organize several fundraising activities throughout the year. Committees are formed to provide necessary services to the band. Among these services are providing aid with uniforms, chaperones for trips, helping with fundraising projects, aiding with public relations, and helping to feed the band following performances.

Membership is open to anyone with a sincere interest in the welfare and success of the Maryville Band Department. Meetings are held each month at 7:00pm in the Maryville High School Band Room. Section leaders of the band are encouraged to attend and all other band members as well. The Booster Meetings are always on the band calendar, located at www.maryvillebands.com

Band Lettering System

Name: _____

Students are responsible for tracking their own points for their letter in band. To earn a letter 100 points must be earned. For the first time a letter is earned the will be awarded the "M" letter. Each subsequent letter the student will receive a gold bar for the additional year of service. All points earned are for the year awarded and are not cumulative from year to year. ***Note:** All points listed are assuming attendance was adequate. The directors reserve the right to lower the points awarded if attendance or tardiness was an issue.

Activity	Points Possible	Points earned
Marching Band (attended all of band camp and all football games and marching competitions)	30	
Concert Band (attended all performances)	30	
Pep Band (attended all 6 games)	10	
Jazz Hounds	15	
Indoor Drumline (fall)	10	
Winter Guard	15	
Drum Major	5	
Member of Leadership Team	10	
Non-Leadership Team Job	5	
Audition for All District Band/Jazz Band	10 ea.	
Member of All-District Honor/Concert Band	5	
Audition for All State Band/Jazz Band	10 ea.	
Member of All State Band/Jazz Band	10	
Member of NMIB, NCMBA, 4-State Honor Band	5 ea.	
Solo/Ensemble to District festival	10 ea.	
Solo/Ensemble to State festival	10 ea.	
Earn "1" Rating at state festival	10 ea.	
Participated in a summer music camp (NOT MHS) (summer prior to school year)	10	
Private lessons for instrumental music (6 months or more)	15	
Participation in outside music ensemble (FCBB, KCYO, MYO, STJYO, etc.)	10	
Musical Pit Orchestra	10	
Summer Band Mentor (summer prior to school year)	5	
Nodaway Co. Community Band (summer prior to school year)	10	

Students may list any other activities they have participated in that may be eligible for letter points:

Total Points _____

Director's approval ____ Yes ____ No

**STUDENT/PARENT AGREEMENT FOR
MARYVILLE HIGH SCHOOL
BAND HANDBOOK**

As a member of the Maryville Band Department, I have read this Band Handbook and I understand the guidelines and procedures. I will follow the instructions and comply with the procedures found in this handbook.

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

As a conscientious parent/guardian, I have read and discussed this handbook with my son/daughter and will help him/her comply with the guidelines and procedures found in this handbook.

Parent/Guardian Signature(s): _____

Date: _____

THIS IS YOUR FIRST GRADED ASSIGNMENT!

This is DUE on 8/24/18