

**The West Orange High School
Marching Mountaineers**
Pride, Dedication, Excellence

***STUDENT & PARENT
HANDBOOK***

THE MARCHING MOUNTAINEERS' PURPOSE

The purpose of the West Orange High School Marching Mountaineers is to provide a forum in which every student is encouraged to achieve their maximum potential through participation in the pageantry of marching music.

CONDUCT

Participation in the Marching Mountaineers is an honor and a privilege. Each member of the Marching Mountaineers is expected to:

- Treat everyone with dignity and respect.
- Do your best always.
- Display a positive and cooperative attitude at all times.
- Be a person of integrity.
- Lead by example. (meet the standard you are holding others to)
- Strive for excellence without arrogance.
- Tolerate honest mistakes from people who are doing their best.
- Keep a sense of humor and be able to laugh at yourself.

DIRECTORS AND STAFF

The directors and staff are responsible for organizing all aspects of the marching band program. Many staff members in addition to Mr. Kelly and Ms. McClure teach the marching band and colorguard. Please remember that all staff members are here for you! Do not show them any disrespect at any time. They are here to make your life better!

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Any member of the Marching Mountaineers is welcome to audition for a leadership position. Leadership clinics and auditions are held in May.

- **Drum Majors:** The position of Drum Major is selected by audition only. The Drum Major carries the responsibility of field conducting. The Drum Majors may also assist in the teaching of drill, running sectionals, marching tutoring, checking attendance, and any other duty given by the directors. The Drum Majors act as a liaison between the students and staff.
- **Section Leaders:** The position of Section Leader is selected by audition only. The Section Leaders assist in relaying important information from the staff and Drum Majors to the band. They will also run sectionals and assist in marching tutoring.

- **Marching Captain:** The position of Marching Captain is selected by audition only. The Marching Captain is one of the strongest marchers in the band and can demonstrate techniques at a very high level. The Marching Captain is in charge of the field lining crew.
- **Color Guard Captains:** The position of Color Guard Captain is selected by audition only. The Color Guard Captains assist in movement tutoring, warm-up block and act as a liaison between the students and staff.
- **Percussion Captains:** The positions of Percussion Captain (Drum line) and Percussion Captain (Pit) are selected by audition only. The Percussion Captains assist in marching tutoring, leading warm-up exercises and act as liaisons between the students and the staff.

PARENT PARTICIPATION

- **Music Boosters**
The West Orange High School Music Boosters are a very active group of parents that support the activities of all the music students of WOHS. All parents are encouraged to be a part of this vital group. Without their support, many important elements of the program would not be possible. Please visit www.wohsmusic.org for more information.
- **Pit Crew**
For most performances, there will be parent crews to assist with loading and unloading the truck with the band's equipment. They are taking time out of their busy lives to help our band, so please treat them with the utmost respect and a smile always.
- **Committees**
Parent volunteers are needed for many marching band and colorguard endeavors, including the annual Invitational, Dinner of Champions, Colorguard Show, and more. Please join the Music Boosters and volunteer to serve on a committee to stay informed and involved.

THE CHAIN OF COMMAND

All successful organizations have structure. To assist in the running of our group, we have certain individuals designated as leaders. The Drum Majors and other Student Leaders have been chosen because of their wealth of knowledge and commitment to our organization. Please ask questions of your student leaders first, and then follow the "Chain of Command".

All Members ➡ Section Leaders and Captains ➡ Drum Majors ➡ Staff ➡ Ms. McClure ➡ Mr. Kelly

GENERAL RULES AND EXPECTATIONS

- BE PROMPT! Being on time shows a respect for everyone else's valuable time.
- Smoking, drinking, use of drugs, and the use of foul language is illegal, inappropriate, unacceptable, and will be dealt with swiftly and severely.
- Chewing gum is always prohibited, before and after rehearsal in the band room and on the practice field.
- Individual preparation of music and drill is essential to our success. **PRACTICE DAILY!**
- Always have your music, drill, and a pencil for rehearsals. Please have water for every practice, even in the cold weather.
- Cooperation with others makes a group from individuals.
- Attempt to adjust quickly to changing or unexpected situations.
- Show your loyalty to the group in all that you say and do.

ATTENDANCE POLICIES

EARLY IS ON TIME • ON TIME IS LATE • LATE IS INEXCUSABLE!

The success of the band depends upon each individual member. Students are required to attend all rehearsals and performances. Every member is an integral part of the band. In the case of illness: if you are well enough to be in school, you are well enough to be at practice.

For a student to be officially excused from a rehearsal or performance, he or she must notify Mr. Kelly **IN WRITING WITH A PARENT SIGNATURE** a week prior to the scheduled event. In the case of an emergency, the student must notify Mr. Kelly once he or she has returned to school. Acceptable excused absences are serious illness, religious obligations and the death of a family member.

One or more unexcused absences may result in a student's removal from a performance.

Students with chronic lateness will be dealt with in a similar manner.

PERFORMANCES

Attendance is mandatory at all performances.

The Marching Mountaineers perform at all WOHS football games, various regional competitions, and the West Orange St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Specific schedules for competition days will not be known until the week of the performance. Please come to the band room on the Monday before a competition to get "This Week's Schedule."

INSTRUMENT CARE & STORAGE

The instrument you play represents a considerable investment. All students are expected to maintain their instrument in top playing condition, whether it is personal or school property. Should a problem exist with your instrument, please bring it to the attention of Mr. Kelly or Ms. McClure as soon as possible.

If you play immediately after eating be sure to brush your teeth or at least rinse out your mouth with water. This will decrease the accumulation of “gunk” in the instrument and mouthpiece, which will hinder instrument performance and is unsanitary. This practice will also minimize sticky valves and prolong pad life.

School Owned Instruments: Using a school instrument is a privilege, not a right. These instruments will be maintained and respected as if they were your own. You are responsible for the return of the instrument in the same condition as it was received. If you damage or abuse it, you will pay for the repair of the instrument.

All students using a school owned instrument must fill out a loan contract and pay a \$45.00 rental fee in September.

Storage: All instruments are to be kept in the proper place. There are over 200 students passing through the band room and we must work together to keep it neat. Any instrument found not in its proper home will be confiscated. If this becomes a chronic problem, students may lose their locker privilege.

WOODWINDS

All instruments must have correctly functioning key mechanisms and pads which “seat” properly. Dry the bore of your instrument after each playing session. This will double the life of your pads. A small paint brush is perfect for periodically dusting key mechanisms.

- **Flute & Piccolo**

A cleaning rod and cloth (an old handkerchief works well) are required. Wipe the bore of your instrument each time you finish a playing session. Check the position of the head joint cork periodically. This will save much intonation misery.

- **Clarinets & Saxophones**

All players must have a minimum of two good reeds in their cases at all times. Also, have a container of cork grease and keep corks lubricated. Have a swab and use it. Mouthpieces should be washed frequently with soap and lukewarm water.

BRASS

All instruments must have slides that move easily! Regular lubrication with slide lubricant or petroleum jelly and daily moving of each slide will keep each slide easily adjustable. Each player should have a

supply of valve oil and slide lubricant in their case. Valves should always be kept clean, well-oiled and free moving. All trumpets should have, wherever possible, a third valve slide ring. All instruments should be cleaned with lukewarm water and a mild detergent every four to six weeks. An appropriate cleaning snake is vital for this purpose. Mouthpieces should be cleaned every week. All instruments should be polished for EVERY PERFORMANCE!

PERCUSSION

All percussionists in the drumline will be assigned a marching drum and case, harness, sticks and mallets, and a locker for storage. All students are expected to keep the materials in proper condition and treat them with care. Pit percussionists will be using the band's keyboard mallet instruments. They are to be stored and organized within the band room or the blue bin outside.

COLORGUARD

All colorguard members will be using school equipment including flags, rifles, and sabres. All students are expected to keep the materials in proper condition and treat them with care. Members of the colorguard store all materials in the WOHS colorguard closet which must be kept clean and organized.

Other Equipment

Every musician should have the following for every rehearsal:

- a sharpened pencil
- all music in plastic sheets, in a three-ring binder
- your drill and dot book

REHEARSALS

- **Objective** - The principal reason for rehearsal is the perfection of the marching and musical performance. Through this practice comes the learning and improvement of our musical skills. The task of preparing a truly musical performance is not easy and requires concentrated work from everyone, whether it is two months or two days before a performance.
- **Warming Up** - When you arrive to the rehearsal, you should give yourself a few minutes to warm up on your own. The playing of long tones, scales, mouthpiece buzzing, and lips slurs is the best way to condition yourself for playing. Do not blast or blat or attempt to use this time for social hour. Warm up ceases when either Mr. Kelly, another staff member or one of the drum majors steps on the podium.
- **Promptness** - All students are expected to be in their seats with instruments ready to play at the announced time. For example, a 8:00 am rehearsal does not mean getting out of the car at 8:00 am; it means being in your seat or on the field ready to rehearse at 8:00 am.

BAND CAMP

Prior to the opening week of school, the entire band goes away for a week of concentrated rehearsals. Included in the activities of the week include the introduction/review of all marching fundamentals, drill instruction, as well as music rehearsal. Attendance at Band Camp is **MANDATORY!**

All band camp forms and payment can be completed online at www.wohsmusic.org. Filling out all the information on this site is how a student signs up to be a part of the marching band.

TRAVEL PROCEDURES

When traveling, a specific bus time will be given. All students are expected to report at the designated time in half-uniform. Half-uniform consists of uniform pants, shoes, dark colored under garment, and black socks with all other parts hung in a garment bag. Shakos should remain in the shako boxes. Before exiting the bus, all students should always be in **full uniform** ready for the performance.

All members are expected to follow all rules for behavior. Any infraction while on the bus will result in disciplinary action in accordance with West Orange High School policy.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

Do not assume that any rehearsal or performance is canceled. If it is possible to rehearse outdoors, we will. Always check with a drum major, your section leader, or follow the band on Twitter at @WOHSBands for announcements.

UNIFORM INFORMATION

The acquisition of our uniforms was the result of countless hours of work and the support of the parents, administrators, and the board of education. These uniforms are of the highest quality and with proper care will last many years. The wearing of the uniform is a privilege, and with that privilege comes responsibility. The same pride and dedication with which we enter the performance field needs to be reflected in the care of the uniform. Those who do not care for the uniform properly will quickly lose the privilege of wearing it.

- With the exception of water, there will be no eating or drinking in uniform.
- The uniform is to be worn properly at all times.
- Uniforms are to be dry cleaned only! A number of dry cleaning businesses in town have offered to clean our uniforms at a discount. Please use their services!
- Do not alter a uniform part in any way without the permission of a director.
- Wet uniforms should be hung and air-dried.
- **NO UNIFORM PART SHOULD EVER GO IN THE WASHER OR DRYER!**

Replacement costs for individual parts of the uniform are very expensive. Should you damage or lose any portion of the uniform, you will pay for the replacement of it.

Replacement Costs:

- Band Jacket \$350
- Band Pant \$200
- Raincoat \$85
- Shako \$75
- Plume \$18
- Garment bag \$13
- Gloves \$3 (students may need to purchase one or two pairs during the season)
- Colorguard uniform parts \$50-150

STAYING INFORMED

- Join the Music Boosters and volunteer to serve on a committee
- Visit the Booster website at www.wohsmusic.org
- Access the band calendar at <http://wohs.woboe.org/Music/WOHSBand>
- Follow the band on Twitter for announcements: @WOHSBands

INFO FOR NEW MARCHING BAND PARENTS

- Attendance at all rehearsals from August through November is mandatory.
- Students should be at all rehearsals early. They should allow enough time to get their instrument ready to play at the scheduled start time.
- Have your child wear sneakers to every rehearsal, and bring sunscreen and extra water when the weather dictates.
- For games and competitions, students should bring their show t-shirts and uniforms to hang in the closet. The band will have time to change into them.
- Students are usually given a meal by the boosters on competition days, such as pizza or sandwiches. However, it's a good idea to bring a snack to supplement the meal if your child doesn't care for the meal.
- Students may choose to bring a small amount of money for the concession stand at football games and competitions if time allows.
- Competition days can be very long. Frequently, the busses do not return to school until 11:00 pm or midnight. It depends on the band's performance time.
- Hand warmers are helpful on cold nights. Kids can keep them in their uniform pockets.
- Band uniforms **MUST** be dry cleaned. How often depends on the weather and turf conditions. They should be cleaned as needed, *at least twice* during the season and once when the season is over. Emerald Cleaners on Pleasant Valley Way has offered this service for a discounted price, or you can use a cleaner of your choice. Uniforms are very expensive and need to be taken care of properly.
- Check the Music Boosters website often for new information:
www.wohsmusic.org