

**MORGAN HIGH SCHOOL
BAND
HANDBOOK**



Approved by the Morgan High School Administration on April 24, 2015.

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Students & Parents,

It is very important that any organization have guidelines so that everyone knows what is expected of them. When everyone is on board and understands what is expected of them, it helps to achieve the highest standards of excellence in all areas of the program. That is the purpose of this handbook.

Many of the guidelines in this book are no different than what has been going on for years in the program, however, there are some new pieces that we have wanted to put into place and have found pertinent to do so. Many of these changes will open up some opportunities for many students in the band program.

We realize that from time to time there will be situations that will arise that are not covered in the handbook. Each of these situations will be handled on a case by case basis and a decision will be reached accordingly.

Over the past four years, the Morgan Band program has grown and changed drastically and we have set a new standard of hard work and excellence. Our goal is to maintain these standards on and off the performance venue and continue striving to better ourselves as citizens and musicians. The guidelines set forth in this handbook are set with this in mind. I am hopeful that as the program continues to grow, we will be able to further adjust the handbook to benefit an even broader number of students.

Korey Parlin
Director of Bands
Morgan High School

There are currently three of the four listed categories in our band program at Morgan High School. In the past, all aspects of band have just counted towards a student's grade in one way or the other, but we now intend to alter that for the upcoming school year, and even more so in the future as the program continues to grow and develop.

1. Concert Band
2. Marching Band
3. Color Guard
4. Pep Band

CONCERT BAND

The concert band currently meets as a class during the 13/14 period during the second half of the year. The concert band *performs* 4-6 times a year outside the school day and participation at these events is required. Starting in January, participants of concert band will rehearse after school one (1) day a week. On performance weeks, they may rehearse up to three (3) times after school. Alternate assessments can be made if arrangements are taken care of in advance for missed rehearsals.

Your grade for concert band will be 40% effort and performance in class on a daily basis; 20% attendance at rehearsal after school; 40% attendance at performances.

All students ***must*** participate in concert band class unless there is a scheduling conflict with a core class. All concert band members ***must*** participate in marching band with the exception of 11th/12th grade fall athletes with at least 2 (two) years of marching experience. These athletes are still encouraged to participate in both activities.

MARCHING BAND

Marching band currently meets as a class during periods 13/14 for the first half of the school year. Our goal is to eventually make marching band an extracurricular activity, so we are slowly altering how we handle this aspect of the program. After school rehearsals, performances, and/or other commitments for marching band **will no longer** be tied to a grade and will instead be handled in an extracurricular-like fashion. Grades will only be given for tasks that happen during the class, including performance exams and participation. For this activity, the school handbook will be our guideline for rules and procedures because students must remember that the marching band field, wherever it might be at the time, is an extension of the classroom.

Marching band members are expected to be at all rehearsals and performances. Each member has after school practices up to three times a week during the school year; the times will be set by the band schedule. They will perform at every football game, as well as another 7-10 performances per year. The calendar is coordinated with the athletic department for all band events and is published in May.

The marching band begins its summer sessions in late June for percussionists and early/mid-July for all others. This schedule includes a week of **MANDATORY** band camp every year as well. Band camp tends to begin the final Monday in July, but the date will be finalized by the yearly band calendar.

Marching band is **MANDATORY** for all students participating in the band program and is **optional only** to 11th and 12th grade fall athletes who have had at least two (2) years of marching experience. Those athletes who may opt out **must** still sign up for the marching band class, unless there is a conflict with career tech or CCP, and **must** be an active member of a fall sport for the corresponding marching season. If any of these athletes fail to finish a sports season, or are removed from the team, they will be given marching band obligations.

Attendance

Being in attendance at all practices and performances is important for the overall success of the program. For this reason, attendance at marching band rehearsal will be tracked daily. With the consequences no longer being reflected in a student's grade, student's lack of attendance will heavily affect their performance time, band letter, and other potential awards. ***Students will need to supply proper documentation for excused absences from rehearsals.*** Excused absences consist of:

1. Personal illness verified by a doctors excuse
2. Death of a family member
3. Observation of religious holiday
4. Attendance at another **pre-approved** school activity
5. A set of circumstances which the director and the parent agree on **at least two weeks** in advance to the rehearsal/performance
6. An emergency occurs and the director and the parent discuss it **as soon as possible** after the event

How will unexcused absences affect me?

The system is fairly simple and easy for all to track. We will use a points system based on a simple attendance policy. Missed rehearsals are worth 1 point, and missed performances are worth 2 points. If your misses have accumulated 2 points there will be a parent conference. After 3 points you will be benched from a performance of the director's choice. After 4 points there will be another parent conference. 5 points and beyond you will be benched. After 6 points you will lose your awards for that season.

Penalties:

- Missed rehearsals 1 point
- Missed performances 2 points

Consequences:

- Parent Conference 2 points
- Loss of Performance Time 3 points
- 2nd parent conference 4 points
- Loss of Performance Time 5 points
- Loss of Band Award (Letter, Etc...) 6 points
- Parent Conference with administrator to discuss future in band program 8 points

A student will have the opportunity to work off points with extra practice time with their section leader, another student leader, or alone, as long as it is approved by and/or observed by a director. (We tend to have percussion rehearsals on one day and brass and woodwinds on another, so they can make up time by coming on their “off day” as well as their regular scheduled days). This process may seem like an inconvenience, but this is a program that takes hard work, teamwork, and dedication to achieve success.

Please note that in order for a student to participate in a performance or a rehearsal, they must be in attendance at school at least ½ a day, or have been excused by the school. Please be observant of this. Again, lack of attendance will affect a student’s performance time, band letter, and other awards.

In any band activity, especially marching band, when you miss it affects the entire group. **Even with excused absences, it is the student’s responsibility to learn any new material. If new and important material is not learned before a performance, the director(s) may choose to sideline the student for the safety of all involved students. This decision will not be counted against the student as a consequence (point system).**

COLOR GUARD

Color guard students will follow the same guidelines as the “MARCHING BAND” students, but with a few exceptions.

1. There will be extra rehearsals in the summer. (With the specific requirements of the flags, and the fact that it is generally new for most, we need this time. Most band students have played their instruments for 4 years by the time they are a 9th grader, a flag member will be a beginner no matter what.)
2. The fees for color guard are a little higher; some uniform parts are personal and are kept, so more is paid.

A student **MAY** participate in color guard without participating in concert band **UNLESS** they have been active members of concert band in the past. It is highly encouraged for all new color guard members to learn an instrument and be an involved and dedicated member of the band program.

PEP BAND

The pep band is the group that performs for basketball games during the winter season. All members of the band program will be required to be a part of pep band, unless they are a part of winter sport that conflicts with the performances. Students will be provided a participation grade for these performances in the concert band class. In years where the band has 6 or more pep band performances, each student will be excused from at least one performance, without consequence. The number of excused performances, and the games that are excusable, will be determined and announced each season. Students who meet the expectations for the season will be recognized at the awards banquet.

COLLEGE CREDIT PLUS AND CAREER TECH

We have been very successful with students in both of these programs over the years. However, it takes compromise on part of the student, the parent, and the director. Students wanting to continue with band and participate in either of these programs need to contact the director ASAP. These students will sit down with their parents and the director to map out a plan. Once the plan has been created, the building principal will look it over to approve it so everyone is on the same page.

ATHLETICS / SPLIT TIME

We have been very lucky over the years to work with great coaches and a great athletic director. We have a great working relationship with the athletic department here at Morgan and we all wish to see the students be involved in multiple activities.

What we have found is that a student wanting to split time, who is committed to both, can be very successful at both. A student that is not committed to one, is usually not committed to the other, and ends up hurting both programs. So my expectation is for that student to give 110% to both activities and they can realize the experiences they are looking for.

The student needs to sit down with the director and the coach and work out a schedule that is going to be successful in both groups.

Please note that for the last two items, it is the student's responsibility to come to the director and/ or coach early in the spring or summer. Do this before it is a conflict!

BAND STAFF / CHAPERONES

The band staff are all board approved employees or volunteers that have been fingerprinted and FBI/BCI approved. The students will address them as if they are addressing the director. If there is an issue that arises with one of the staff members please come to the director, as soon as possible.

UNIFORMS

Uniforms are worn for a purpose. When they are worn, it is because we want everyone to look alike and have a disciplined appearance. Please listen to staff when you are being told which uniform and how to wear it correctly. We have several different looks we wear in the course of a year between all of the different groups, so it is important that you always pay attention to what is to be worn for that performance. It is the duty of each student to treat their uniform parts with respect and keep them well-maintained.

MISCELLANEOUS

Students may not extend their participation in the band program past their fourth year of high school. If they are still in school after four years of high school, they have other needs to attend to in order to graduate. The Morgan Band will always focus on the best interest of the student.

AWARDS

Each student will be recognized and considered for awards in concert band, marching band, and pep band. For a student to be considered for the John Philip Sousa or other nationally recognized awards, however, they need to participate in all aspects of band at Morgan High School and meet all requirements and expectations. For the John Philip Sousa or Louis Armstrong awards, junior and senior band members will be considered first.

We realize these are guidelines, but it is a step in the direction we all want to take in making our performances without our instruments just as impressive as it has been with our instruments over the past several years. I realize that there will be situations that arise that are not addressed in this handbook. They will be handled on a case by case basis placing the student's best interest at hand.

I am willing to exemplify and enforce these administrator approved Morgan High School Band Handbook policies and guidelines.

Korey Parlin
Head Director

Greg Becker
Asst. Director

Anita Eldridge
MHS Principal

I have read the administrator approved Morgan High School Band Handbook and realize that I play an integral role in the overall success of the Morgan Band program. I understand all of the policies and guidelines that I have read and I am willing to abide to these.

(Student Signature)

(Parent Signature)