

Madison Central High School

Marching Band Handbook

2025



<http://www.madisoncentralband.com>

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Richmond, KY 40475
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Madison Central Parents and Students,

Welcome to the 2025 marching band season and the Madison Central Band Family. In order to build and foster a strong and competitive program we need your help. Together we continue to expand on the legacy and reputation that already surrounds our championship award winning program.

This handbook is intended for use by students, parents and marching band staff as a convenient source of information for the 2025 Marching Band season. In this handbook information is clearly communicated in order to operate as seamlessly and effectively as possible. Please take some time to read through the handbook carefully and when finished, sign and return the agreement form located on the last few pages.

Every band member is expected to follow the guidelines set forth. It is a comprehensive guide to our operations and expectations. To have a championship caliber band, we must all commit to excellence and be willing to do what it takes to make that happen. Together we are MC!

Thank you for making this commitment to the Madison Central Marching Band. Our staff is here to help and educate with passion and creativity. We care deeply about using music education as a vehicle to provide students the opportunity to grow artistically and emotionally, and we are glad to have you in the band family.

Respectfully,

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Rehearsal and Performance Attendance:

The calendar for the entire season including all rehearsals, performances and competitions is available on the Madison Central Website. <http://www.madisoncentralband.com>

Marching band rehearsals and performances are mandatory. These rehearsals and performances include:

- ALL rehearsals during band and rookie camp (full days no leaving early or arriving late)
- ALL rehearsals during the regular season
- ALL fall break rehearsals
- ALL performances
 - Saturday competitions
 - Friday night football games
 - Parades
 - Indoor shows including performances at the elementary, middle or high school

The Madison Central Band reserves the right to add or adjust dates as things come up or unforeseen events happen. Whenever possible, the directors/staff will communicate at least 2 weeks notice for these dates. This is not common but does happen from time to time. The attendance policy applies to these dates as well. Simply put, band rehearsals and performances are mandatory!

Please note - any request for an exception must be submitted online via google forms and approved by the directors one week in advance of the conflicting date.

Excused Absences

- Death in the immediate family
- Serious personal illness/injury (doctor's note required)
- Other issues handled on an individual basis via online requests

Please note - text message, email or verbal communication will not be sufficient for absence notification; the google online request must be submitted for an absence to be considered excused.

Unexcused Absences

- Dentist/doctor/orthodontist/hair/nail/chiropractor/etc appointments (these must be scheduled around band dates)
- Homework
- Concert/sporting event or any other recreational event
- Birthday
- Work

- Senior pictures
- Trips/Vacations (these must be scheduled around band dates)
- No ride (let someone know...arrangements can be made)

Attendance Policy

Perfect attendance is the single most important quality of a state champion caliber band. An entire rehearsal can become wasted time if band members are missing. We must function as a team. Our current rehearsal schedule provides students with 1 weekday off and time after school on Thursdays. This allows students and parents to schedule appointments or other activities without causing a conflict with band rehearsals or performances.

Students are responsible for arriving at each rehearsal and performance on time with all required materials. On time means at least 15 minutes early. Parents are asked to see that their child takes this responsibility seriously because it takes several minutes to get equipment moved and instruments ready for rehearsal.

Unexcused absence at rehearsal

- 1st offense – loss of privilege to perform in next competition
- 2nd offense – dismissal from the program

Other extenuating circumstances deemed unexcused MUST be submitted via the online google file to the director 1 week prior to conflict. It will then be determined whether the absence is to be excused or unexcused. Again, text message, email or a verbal conversation will not be considered a request for an excused absence.

Unexcused absence at performance event

- 1st offense – dismissal from the season

Excused absences

Each excused absence must be accompanied by official signed documentation from the doctor, etc. This will be turned in to the band office immediately upon your return. The director reserves the right to keep the student (with excused absences) from participating in the next performance event. This would NOT be a punishment, but as a way of providing the performer more time to prepare and get caught up. This will also protect the other band students from potential injury and allow the program to flourish from all members who were in full attendance and received all pertinent information.

Tardies – rehearsals and performances

- A tardy that is more than half of the scheduled rehearsal/performance time will result in an unexcused absence. This includes leaving rehearsal/performance early as well as arriving late.

Three tardies throughout the season will result in an unexcused absence.

Band Camp

2025 Band Camp Dates

- Band Camp Week 1 July 14-18 | 9am - 4pm (ALL MEMBERS)
- Band Camp Week 2 July 21-25 | 9am - 9pm (ALL MEMBERS)
- Band Camp Week 3 July 28-August 1 | 9am - 9pm (ALL MEMBERS)

Attendance at the scheduled band camp weeks is mandatory. Please note the camp dates above so that families can avoid conflicts with vacations, trips, appointments,...etc. No approval of absences during band camp. Attendance is mandatory for participation; this includes arriving late or leaving early.

- Barring severe weather, we rehearse RAIN OR SHINE. Please have a dry change of clothes and shoes readily available.
- Breakfast before camp is a necessity and you must avoid sodas and sugar filled drinks. Your health should be a top priority and you must take the proper measures necessary to make sure you are capable of fully participating.
- Each member has their own “spot” in the show and it is impossible to learn drill with people missing. That is why it is so important that everyone be at camp EVERY DAY and for the FULL DAY. Each person is important and everyone is counting on you to do your part to make the show and the season a success.
- Students are responsible for providing their own lunch on camp days. Dinner will be provided by the band boosters during Band Camp Week 2 and Band Camp Week 3.

Understudy Program

We will utilize your talents where we feel you will be able to perform your best. All members of the band may not be in the entire production of the competitive show. For instance, a student recovering from injury may be written to enter the show during the ballad from the props or front sideline. We want every student to learn and grow; at times, marching an entire show is not the best if they are not ready. Every

student will be in the drill in the closer, but we may layer them in and out of the drill more like a Broadway production.

8th Grade Students Marching Up

Each season we will have a few rising 8th graders that participate in the high school marching band. Because in any given year there may be more than 150 students between the 8th grade bands at our middle schools, it's necessary to limit this participation. To that end, students must have either placed in the middle school all-district band or have been recommended for high school participation by their current director to ensure that they are ready for the advanced skills of the high school competitive show.

Travel

The Madison Central Band travels state-wide during the competition season. Typically, the band will travel to one overnight destination as well as all other regular competition "day" trips. An itinerary will be available the week of each trip. All school and band rules are in effect for the duration of each trip. You are representing the Madison Central School Community whenever and wherever we perform or travel. We will all do our best to maintain these standards to the highest degree. Our reputation of class, maturity, discipline, and courtesy is known and appreciated state-wide. Take part in this and be proud. The Directors reserve the right to dismiss/send home any student who is in violation of band or school rules or whose general conduct or attitude toward the trip and its participants is proven to be detrimental to the rest of the group.

Competition Procedures

- Itineraries will be distributed on the Monday the week of the competition; report promptly at the given itinerary listed call times.
- No band member is permitted to leave the organization in advance of group dismissal at any time, unless excused by the director. Students must stay the entire competition day. Parents may check out their student from an event ONLY ONCE throughout the course of the season. Parents must fill out proper paperwork with the director before taking their child.
- While seated in the stands only band members are allowed in the ranks.
- During the awards ceremony, the band will stand at attention as a group.
- While in the stands, show complete respect for all performing groups.
- The band will STAY TOGETHER AT ALL TIMES and be dressed uniformly.

General Band Rules

- Be in attendance block ready to begin ON TIME.
- Keep the band room and hallway clean and professional.
- Keep your language clean; use self-control. You never know who might be listening.
- Show respect to all directors, administrators, teachers, staff, custodians and parents.
- Use of any tobacco products or alcohol during band functions (rehearsals or performance events) will not be permitted.
- Athletic shoes with arch support must be worn at all marching rehearsals.

Band Staff

Paid professionals and technical assistants are a vital part of the band program. Without their help, we would not be able to achieve the standard to which we aspire. They must have the respect and cooperation of all students and parents. Students should give these staff members the same respect they would give any member of the MCHS faculty. Any problems should be brought directly to the directors.

Band Office

The band office is the business office of the marching band and its directors. Students are not allowed in the band office without permission of the directors. The telephone in the office is off limits to students except in an emergency. Parents, please make arrangements to pick your child up at the announced dismissal times. We will make every effort to let the ensemble out on time.

Attitude

The total band member is someone who is always willing to give their personal best for the good of the group and willing to make sacrifices for something that is much larger than themselves. Being in the Madison Central Marching Band is a tremendous honor, privilege, and opportunity. We take pride in professionalism, hard work and sacrifice. Please have the maturity, presence of mind, self-discipline, and determination needed to make the most of this experience, as it promises to be one that you will never forget.