

# Myers Park High School Marching Band

## Handbook for the 2009 Season

### Introduction

Welcome to the Myers Park Marching Band! I know that your time in the band will reward you with musical enrichment, lifelong friends, and lots of good times. This document has been put in your hands so that you understand all rules, procedures, and policies that allow our band to be successful. Please read and digest these pages carefully! All information contained in this packet is important for you to know in order for you to be the best Marching Mustang you can be.

Let's have a great year!

-Mr. Blount

### Communication

We must communicate effectively. Ways that we keep in touch are:

- **Email. Email is our primary mode of communication.** Please email Robyn Walls (walls88@carolina.rr.com) if you are not currently on our email list. If you do not use email, please contact Mr. Blount by phone so that you can receive information other ways.
- Website: [www.myersparkband.org](http://www.myersparkband.org). Contains a calendar that is frequently updated, contact information for key members, and much more.
- If you need to contact Mr. Blount directly, email is generally the best way
  - ✓ [charles.blount@cms.k12.nc.us](mailto:charles.blount@cms.k12.nc.us)
  - ✓ Phone: 704-609-7812 (this is my personal cell, so please call only if you really NEED to get in touch with me immediately)

### Student Expectations

- Display a good attitude and give 100% effort
- Follow instructions of directors, instructors, and student leaders
- Attend all rehearsals and camp
- Attend all performances: football games, competitions, parades
- Take good care of equipment, uniforms, and instruments
- Memorize all show music
- Participate enthusiastically in all Band Fundraising Activities

### Parent Expectations

- Attend the Mandatory parent meeting on August 2 at 5:00 PM
- Pay all Band Fees on time or complete appropriate forms for Financial Assistance
- Encourage and support good attendance habits
- Ensure your child has **prompt transportation** arranged for all band functions.
- Support your child in The Band with a donation of time or money (or both)

### Fee Schedule

- June 1, 2009: \$150 initial deposit
- August 3, 2009: \$100 payment due (pay at meeting)
- November 1, 2009: \$100 final payment due (minus fundraising credits accrued)
- Please don't hesitate to ask about financial assistance if there is a need. Contact Mr. Blount as soon as such a need arises-**if you fall behind on your obligations, it's much more difficult to help you!**

## Rules of the Marching Band

1. Show respect for all students, teachers, instructors, and parents involved in our band
2. Show respect for all facilities, vehicles, instruments, and equipment that we use
3. If you need to speak or leave during rehearsal, please raise your hand
4. No gum in rehearsal **EVER**. No food or drink (other than water) in the Rehearsal Room
5. Represent yourself, our band, and our school with dignity and pride
6. Adhere to CMS and Myers Park codes of Conduct

## ATTENDANCE POLICY (READ CAREFULLY)

All members of the Band are **REQUIRED** to attend all rehearsals and performances. When you are absent, it affects more than just you: the entire group's efforts are wasted! For this reason, attendance will be strictly enforced. Absences will be excused for the following reasons:

1. Family emergency
2. Significant illness (100+ temp, vomiting, diarrhea, etc)
3. Major pre-planned event (you're attending the Olympics, you're receiving the Nobel Prize, a family wedding, Grandparents 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, etc.) In this case, **please notify Mr. Blount in writing no later than August 14<sup>th</sup>**.

Be on time. Two tardies will equal an unexcused absence. "On time" means that you are in your spot **ready to play and march** the moment the clock reads our rehearsal or call time. And since clocks tend to differ, you'd better be a couple minutes early just in case.

### **Consequences for absences (also applicable to behavior):**

1<sup>st</sup> absence: Forfeit of 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter break

2<sup>nd</sup> absence: Forfeit of 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter break, loss of stands and bus privileges (i.e. you will be isolated from your friends and will travel and perform in the presence of chaperones or staff)

3<sup>rd</sup> absence: Consequences 1 and 2 will be applied, and **you will be made ineligible for the Spring Trip**

4<sup>th</sup> absence: Removal from the Marching Mustangs

## Materials

### ✓ **EQUIPMENT**

- ❑ Instrument or flag
- ❑ Accessories: lyre, flip folder, reeds, oil, etc. Players of school-owned instruments will provide their own accessories

### ✓ **BINDER**

- ❑ 3 ring, 1.5" or 2"
- ❑ No less than 40 plastic sheet protectors to hold drill, music, and coordinate sheets

### ✓ **ATTIRE**

- ❑ Athletic shoes **ONLY**. Flip flops, Crocs, sandals, or bare feet are not acceptable
- ❑ Clothes appropriate for the weather (usually **HOT**)
- ❑ **Towel** (wet with ice water, placed around neck can be a lifesaver!)

### ✓ **OTHER NECESSITIES**

- ❑ **Big** (no less than 2 quarts) water bottle with ice cold water. Put your name on it.
- ❑ Sunscreen

## Uniforms

### Summer Uniform

- Consists of:
  - ❑ Khaki shorts (you provide).
  - ❑ White shoes (100% white or really close)
  - ❑ White socks
  - ❑ MP Band Polo Shirt (tucked in)-can be purchased at beginning of Camp

### Regular Uniform

- Will be worn at all performances once the weather cools down a bit (date will be announced)
- Our uniforms are the property of the school, and cannot be replaced until 2012! **WE MUST TAKE CARE OF THEM. YOU WILL BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR DAMAGE OR LOSS**
- Uniforms will remain at MPHS when not in use
- **The Boosters provides:** Jacket, Baldric, Pants, Show T-Shirt, Gauntlets (2), Shako (i.e. hat), Plume, show t-shirt, and 1 pair of gloves,
- **YOU Provide:**
  - ❑ Marching Shoes-Available for purchase at Band Camp
  - ❑ **Black** socks. Not navy, dark brown or gray. **BLACK.**
- **UNIFORM RULES** (in effect whenever we are in uniform):
  1. No visible jewelry is to be worn. Facial hair should be trimmed neatly or shaved altogether
  2. All parts of the uniform must be worn correctly-facing the right direction, on the correct part of your body.
  3. The uniform must be worn completely, unless the “jackets off” directive has been given
  4. Long hair must be tucked under the shako
  5. Be wise about what you EAT while in uniform (*hold* the ketchup and mustard). You will be charged for any unscheduled cleanings.
  6. At games, your show T-Shirt must be worn underneath the uniform
  7. At competitions, a T-Shirt (your choice) must be worn underneath the uniform

### Optional Academic Credit

- Assuming you get an A (no big deal as long as you do what’s expected), Marching Band is calculated as 4 points to your GPA and gives you .5 units of credit.
  - If this helps your GPA and/or credit situation, fill out the **Do nothing!**
  - If this would likely be detrimental to your GPA, obtain, complete, and return the **CMS Marching Band Volunteer Participant Form** by September 7<sup>th</sup>.
- Those taking Marching Band for credit will be evaluated on the following:
  - Attendance at rehearsals and performances
    - Unexcused absences from rehearsals will lower grade one letter grade
    - Unexcused absences from performances will lower grade 2 letter grades
  - Memorization of Show Music
  - Positive participation in all Band Activities

## Performances

### **Football:**

- ✓ Our primary job is to contribute to the intensity and atmosphere of Myers Park Football
- ✓ 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter will be our break. You should EAT (hold the ketchup and mustard). Students are to be back in their spot in the stands **ready to play** when the clock hits zero on the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter.
- ✓ Sportsmanship is the law. We will treat all players, fans, band members and cheerleaders with respect, regardless of what school they are from. Even Providence.
- ✓ During the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> quarters, Band Members must be standing in formation, paying attention to the game, and ready to play at all times.

### **Competitions:**

- ✓ For the 5 Competition Saturdays reserved on the calendar, you belong to the Band. Count on it: the ENTIRE morning, afternoon, evening, and well into the night will be occupied.
  - **Students WILL be able to take the SAT on October 10**
- ✓ The goal here is to give our **best** possible performance of our field show, for which we will receive constructive criticism and comparison with other bands of similar size. All of this allows us to improve.
- ✓ Itineraries will be available for parents wishing to accompany us

**\*\*At the conclusion of all performances and trips, ALL students are expected to help unload equipment, put away uniforms, and straighten up the Band Room prior to leaving.**

## SPRING TRIP!

We love to travel! A trip to *somewhere exciting* is being planned! We will miss 1-2 days of school to travel, perform, but most of all just have fun and enjoy each other's company. Remember that your eligibility depends on your attendance, behavior, and attitude through the season.

## Instruments: yours, ours, theirs

**Yours:** Must have your name on it. Must be kept in working condition. The Myers Park Band assumes no responsibility for any misfortune that may befall your horn during band activities. Students using their own instruments must submit the Musical Instrument Disclaimer form.

**Ours:** The Myers Park Band owns and provides many large instruments for use by our band students. The boosters will cover expenses relating to normal wear and tear, but any damage resulting from negligence on the lessee's part will be the financial responsibility of that student.

**Theirs:** Excluding situations where you are helping someone out (e.g. holding their instrument while they tie their shoe), you are **not** to handle, hold, play, caress, or otherwise make contact with any instrument other than the one you are assigned to play.

## Calendar

On the next page, you will find our calendar for our 13-week season. Please plan accordingly and notify Mr. Blount of **significant, pre-existing** conflicts with any event on the schedule prior to August 14<sup>th</sup>. Great care went into calendaring the season-I strongly believe that we have a schedule that is **fair, balanced, and respectful of your time**. So please remember that before you ask for an exception.

**OUR BAND WILL BE AS GOOD (OR AS BAD)  
AS OUR COLLECTIVE ATTENDANCE  
Every member and every rehearsal counts.**