

Maize High School
Symphonic/Concert Band Handbook



2023-2024

Staff

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Mission Statement

The mission of the Maize High School band is to inspire the life-long qualities of persistence and excellence—musically and beyond—in the mind, body, and spirit of everyone involved, while maintaining a positive, family-oriented, and unified atmosphere that is both challenging and supportive.

Program Description

Band is designed to give the student an enriching and diverse instrumental music education. This class provides a number of performance opportunities for the student in a variety of settings. The daily objective of the course is to foster and promote musical growth through the playing of an instrument by the student. As a member of the band program, group effort and cooperation is necessary to a successful program. Band is a skilled effort in which each student is expected to show technical and musical growth throughout this course. After completion of 4 years in this program, students will be well-rounded musicians, or consumers of music, with an appreciation and understanding of how music functions in their everyday lives.

Goals

- a. When students leave the program they will have the knowledge, skill set, and strategies to independently pursue music, no matter the form, outside of school.
- b. Students develop performance techniques that will increase and grow as the student progresses through the program
- c. Advanced instrumental students will perform, discuss, and critically evaluate characteristics of more elaborate music compositions
- d. Students will discuss relationships between music concepts and other disciplines, and be involved in discussing various cultures, styles, composers, and historical periods
- e. To provide the students access to unique learning opportunities outside of class, such as solos, ensembles, choirs, and honor groups.
- f. To provide a safe and healthy environment for students to learn.

Class Expectations

The two greatest factors in determining the success of an individual or organization are attitude and work ethic. A positive attitude and strong work ethic can make the difference between a mediocre group and an exceptional one. Remember, band is just like life: you get out of it what you put into it. By always putting forth the best effort possible, band becomes an exciting and rewarding experience. The program challenges students to approach everything they do with diligence, both inside and outside of the classroom.

Preparation

- Success is when preparation and opportunity meet!
- Check the board daily for announcements and information.
- Have your pencil, music, and instrument at the start of class.
- Warm-up properly.
- Follow all written and verbal instructions.

Promptness

- BE ON TIME!
- Be in your seat before the bell rings.
- Be 5-10 minutes early to EVERYTHING

Learning Environment

- Do not play or talk while the director is talking.
- Remain silent throughout the rehearsal.
- Watch the conductor.
- Raise your hand and wait to be acknowledged before asking questions.
- Do not leave the room or until you are dismissed.

- If you have specific pronouns or a name that you would prefer, we want to empower you in this class.
- Bullying or harassment of any kind to anyone for any reason will not be tolerated and will result in immediate dismissal from the band.

Room Cleanliness

- Do not bring food, drinks, or gum into the classroom.
- Put instruments and music in the proper storage areas.
- Respect school property.
 - Students are not allowed in the band office or storage room unless invited by a staff member.
- Keep stands and chairs orderly

● *If you have a problem you cannot resolve on your own, please feel free to talk to Ms. Goss privately*

Attendance Policy

Your attendance during class and performances has a direct effect on your grade. Band is a participation/performance based course. Attendance is mandatory to all rehearsals and performances unless otherwise noted. Attached is the list of scheduled concert dates throughout the school year. Please be aware of these concert dates, and plan accordingly. Excused Absences

Include:

- Extreme personal illness with Doctor's Note (or absence from school)
 - Family Health emergencies verified by family
 - Approved Academic conflicts
 - Required Religious observances (with notice)
- Extra-Curricular School conflicts approved by Ms. Goss in advance.

Again, communication with Ms. Goss is crucial when an absence is known. Ms. Goss should know about any conflicts at least TWO weeks prior to the event in question. The best method of communication would be via e-mail or through phone contact. Absences that are excused will be subject to a make-up assignment. Note: Even if Ms. Goss is informed about the conflict with ample time, it does not guarantee that the absence will be approved.

Grading

The student's grade will be based on Participation, Performances, Tests, and Quizzes.

Participation: Active participation during rehearsal is expected. Participation in basketball games, festivals, etc.

Performances: **All performances are mandatory.** Ms. Goss will provide the students with performance dates with ample time to make adjustments in schedule. Performance attendance will be a heavily graded aspect of the class. Unlike a written test, performances cannot be made up or reproduced. Additionally, the band is a group activity where students must rehearse and perform in a collaborative fashion.

Tests and Quizzes: These will be either performance-based (playing test) or written (theory test) and will take place during the class period. Students will be given prior notice to prepare before any test or quiz. **LATE WORK IS NOT ACCEPTED.**

Concert Dress

Concert dress is required for all performance. Concert dress will not be provided by the band program and must be purchased on your own.

Men: Black shirt, black pants, black belt, black socks, black shoes, solid black tie or bowtie optional

Ladies: Black pants or black skirt **THAT IS MID CALF LENGTH**, black sleeved shirt, black closed toe shoes. Please only wear minimal or no jewelry.

Private Lessons

Private lessons are highly encouraged for all band members. If you are interested in private lessons, please see Ms. Goss for more details on an appropriate teacher for your instrument.

Awards and Lettering

Awards will be given at the End of the Year Banquet after the last concert. Awards will be given at the discretion of Ms. Goss and Mr. Siler. Everyone is invited to the end of the year banquet to help us celebrate the success of our students over the year!

All students are eligible to letter in band. Students must complete 15 points to be considered for lettering. You may submit lettering as you complete it via the following google form. All lettering forms must be submitted by April 29th.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfit62a1nI9tQu3N4anXG56x1IBgLtTBFZAH5iJGAcAg0Gpvw/viewform>

Activity	Points
Section Leader/Drum Major of Marching Band	1
Audition for District Jazz Band/Band	1
Selected for District Jazz Band/Band	3
Audition for State Jazz Band/Band	2
Selected for State Jazz Band/Band	4
Attend ALL basketball games (proven with attendance)	3
I Rating at Regional Solo/Small Ensemble	3
II Rating at Regional Solo/Small Ensemble	2
I Rating at State Solo/Small Ensemble	4
II Rating at State Solo/Small Ensemble	3
Participate in an outside organization (ex. Youth Symphony/Wind Ensemble, Route 266, etc.)	3
Participate in private lessons (1 pt. per quarter. 1pt for summer)	5 points possible
Attend another high school band concert (must attach program)	1
Attend a College band concert (must attach program)	2
Attend a professional concert (must attach program)	3

Instrument Rental, Purchase Items & CB Fee

Instrumental Rental is available for instruments at a yearly fee of \$100 a year. Instruments will be rented on a first-come-first-served basis, and will be limited in numbers. Instrument rental fees will be handed out, they should be returned with cash or check made out to MHS

Reeds, mouth pieces, cleaning kits, etc are necessary to play any instrument.

Clarinet players: It's recommended that clarinets play on a reed strength 3.5-4

Saxophone players: It's recommended that saxophones play on a reed strength no less than a 3

Bassoon players: Ms. Goss can recommend many great people that make reeds!

Oboe Players: Oboe players can buy reeds from Charles Double Reed or from anywhere their private instructor recommends.

Brass Players: Brass players should play on a mouthpiece that they deem acceptable for their instrument for a characteristic tone. Private lesson instructors are the best recommenders of mouthpieces.

Percussionists: Percussionists are responsible for having snare drum sticks, a variety of marimba, vibraphone, xylophone, and bell mallets, drumsticks, and anything else you may need to be successful as a percussionist. See Mr. Siler with any questions.

All students that did NOT participate in marching band will pay a \$50 concert band fee. This fee will cover many things including pep band shirts, extra incidentals, 8th grade night, and food for State Basketball games. Please make checks out to Maize Band Boosters.

Activity Policy

The Maize High School Band will attend State Large Ensemble Festival, and potentially other festivals that will require us to travel as a band. These festivals are mandatory by every band member and will not be excused unless under approved circumstances. Rules for bus rides are as followed and will be upheld by all students and staff

Bus Rules

- No screaming, talking loudly, or other disruptive noises.
 - Music devices will be allowed with headphones.
- If you take items of value, you assume the risk for any damage or loss.
- Food and drink are only allowed on the bus with director approval.
 - The emergency exits on the bus are for emergencies only.
 - \ ● Please keep hands, feet, and other objects to yourself.
 - No touching, kissing, or inappropriate contact.
- THE USE OF TOBACCO IS PROHIBITED DURING ALL BAND REHEARSALS, PERFORMANCES, TRIPS, AND EVENTS. ● THE USE OF DRUGS OR ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES OF ANY KIND WHILE REPRESENTING OUR BAND PROGRAM AND OUR SCHOOL IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED

Fundraising

Fundraising will be available throughout the year. Fundraising opportunities will give opportunity to raise money for the band program and for student accounts. Fundraisers will be announced by the Band boosters. Students are highly encouraged to participate in fundraising to help offset the cost of any trips we make take over the years.

Booster Information

Welcome to the Maize Band Boosters!

The Maize Band Boosters is a volunteer parent organization with the purpose of supporting the Maize High School band programs, which include Marching Band, Color Guard, and Concert Bands. It takes a great deal of organization each year to meet all the needs of the program.

Currently, the Maize Band Booster organization operates with a structure of officers and specific-purpose committees. The officers make up the Executive Committee and work directly with the Band Director to accomplish the stated purposes of the Band Booster organization.

How to become a MHS Band Booster?

All parents of a MHS band student are part of the Band Boosters and are an integral component to the success of the band program. As a parent of a Maize High School band student, you have a unique opportunity to be involved in the organization. There is always plenty of room for families to support the band through volunteering to serve on a committee. Throughout the year, we need help at events, providing food donations, chaperoning trips, etc. Your time and dedication to the MHS Band are appreciated!

Any adult interested in supporting the Maize High School Band Programs is eligible for membership in the organization including grandparents and business owners.

The Maize Band Boosters holds a regular meeting in the Maize High School band room to answer parent questions regarding the band program.

End Note from Ms. Goss & Mr. Siler

We are extremely excited for this year! All of our students this year will delve into amazing band literature that encapsulates many cultures, styles, and musical time periods. They won't only grow as musicians, but they will also grow as human beings. We hope that as they progress through the band program here, they develop a sense of belonging and community not only with each other but with me as well. Our door is always open to help students in any way possible!

Handbook Return

Must be completed by Nov 10.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfo-ZrFTns-6AMoVTixm7YHehzy_rcJokG6kxrKHoSYPcXiEw/viewform