



Member Handbook 2026-2027

Mr. Rob Tucker, Director of Bands

Introduction

The Mansfield Marching Band consists of students from grade 8 to 12. The purpose of this handbook is to provide valuable information about the band program. This information is in addition to the rules and regulations as stated in the Mansfield School District Student Handbook. To consistently achieve and maintain the high standard of excellence desired by this organization, members should familiarize themselves with the regulations and traditions of the band program.

Philosophy

The band program is a major part of student life at Mansfield High School. We represent what it means to be proud of being a Tiger. Many school activities would seem dull without the presence of our band. Because of this, it is vital that we represent our school and our program with the highest level of professionalism at all times - both in public and private areas. By doing so, we open many doors of opportunity for our program in the future.

Objectives

The goals and objectives of the band program are as follows:

A: To develop the technical skills necessary to play a musical instrument satisfactorily in a performance organization.

B: To develop musicianship and pride of accomplishment and to uphold citizenship, tradition, moral, spirit and loyalty.

C: To instill the values of a strong work ethic, dependability, punctuality, self-discipline, intrinsic motivation, as well as the leadership skills that are most crucial to be successful in today's adult environment.

General Rules of Conduct

- First and foremost, all students must adhere to the policies and procedures of the Mansfield High School Handbook
- Any behavior that is counterproductive to the band program and/or school district or shines a negative light on its members will not be tolerated. **This includes out of classroom behavior, school discipline and social media.**
- Flagrant or repeated misbehavior will result in commitment to a written action plan, disciplinary action or dismissal from the band program
- Each member will represent the band, school and community of Mansfield in a professional manner at all times
- Public displays of affection are not allowed or acceptable at any time - this includes free time in the band room, practices, performances or in any public setting.
- No student will ever be in partial uniform while in public.
 - Uniform jackets will be fully zipped up at all times unless directed otherwise by directors or drum major
 - Exceptions to this rule will be made by directors discretion
- Win or lose, we are our football team and cheerleaders biggest fans.
- The instructions of the Drum Major are to be followed without question or comment. Any concerns should be directed to a director. Disrespect shown towards director, adults, drum major or student leadership will not be tolerated and will result in disciplinary action
- Director and student leaders will treat each other and all band members with mutual respect and concern at all times
- Tennis shoes and socks must be worn at all rehearsals (no sandals, flip flops, boots, socks-only or bare feet). Shoes must be laced up and tied to prevent injury
- Students are not to play instruments that do not belong to you or are not assigned to you.
- Put away and/or cover instruments properly as a daily habit to preserve the condition of our instrument inventory
- Students are expected to go to all of their classes and not use the band room as an excuse to avoid their academic expectations
- All disputes should go through the chain of command. For students, you must first speak to your section leader to resolve issues. If necessary, follow with speaking to the drum major and then to the director. For parents and other adults, band related conflicts should be addressed directly with the director in private and not in front of students in a professional manner. **All matters of conflict for students, parents, directors and administration are personal and confidential and should be treated with professionalism and respect.**

Cell Phones and Other Technology

Cell Phones and other electronic technologies are definitely useful devices to have as we travel on the road to games and competitions, but are a distraction during the instructional period. The Mansfield School District Handbook states the policy concerning the use of these items during school. The “instructional period” in band will be defined as follows:

- The ‘traditional’ class period
- Rehearsals and Sectionals, as well as Performances
- **Pregame, 1st, 2nd and 4th quarter of football games**
- Competitions (Warm-Up through end of Performance)

An exception to this rule is to use phones/tech to use as a metronome or tuner - and only when instructed to do so by the Director or Drum Major.

Band Booster Club

By having a student in the band or color guard, each parent is automatically designated as a Band Booster member and has all voting privileges. Parents are asked to support the band and color guard by attending meetings, performance events and assisting with fundraisers. The Boosters spearhead the raising of funds and many aspects of supporting the band with their volunteerism and we encourage you to join us. If you have any questions about how to be an active member of the Band Boosters, send an email to Rob Tucker at robert.tucker@mansfieldtigers.org and he will direct your inquiry over to the Band Booster President to get you connected.

Communication

Students are expected to stay informed with what activities are taking place. Students are also expected to make sure that information is also going home to the parents as well. The majority of problems we experience stem from miscommunication or lack of communication. Many steps have been taken to remedy this problem:

- The 2026-2027 season calendar will be handed out at the July Parent Meeting and can be found on the Band App.
- Our main communication tool will be the Band App - this app will provide chat rooms for both parents and students as well as the season calendar. Links and QR codes for the app are found below:

Follow this link (<https://band.us/n/a1a4bca1M2rcj>) or use your phone camera on the following QR code to join the Mansfield Bands Band App Page. Once you are accepted into the band page, you will have links to join the “Student Chat” and/or the “Parent” page. The student page will be more active, have more day-to-day conversations and some parents may opt out of that to limit the number of notifications you receive.

The “Parent Chat” will be limited to parent related information - parents are welcome to join one, or both chats at any time. However, ALL STUDENTS are required to be in the STUDENT chat, and ALL PARENTS are required to be in at least the PARENT chat to avoid communication issues.



Attendance Policy

- All performances of the Mansfield Band are mandatory. This includes football games, both home and away. This also includes concerts, parades, competitions, and other performances that come up throughout the year.
- Students must have no conflicts on any performance day. The only exception to this is if another school event conflicts with the contest - and the exception is only accepted if the student communicates the conflict with the director **IN WRITING** ahead of time. **If there are to be multiple conflicts for sanctioned school events, communication must be had between the band directors and the conflicting event's leadership to discuss sharing of time that benefits both programs as soon as the conflict is discovered.**
- Students will not receive an Excused Absence for rehearsals or performances for baby-sitting, study sessions, family outings or non-emergency medical appointments. These events should be scheduled outside of rehearsal time and will not be excused. Missing any rehearsal or performance event not only takes away from your experience, but it also creates a negative impact on the other members who depend on you.
- If the band schedule conflicts with other school activities (sports, etc), you must notify the directors in writing at least 72 hours prior to the conflict. Every school activity is important and deserves a full commitment, but all activities must share with each other. Giving a 72 hour notice allows the directors to meet with the other coaches/sponsors of these activities to work out a plan that works best for everybody involved. The goal is NOT to punish the student - the goal is to communicate between all school programs in honor to respect everyone's time and commitments in the fairest way possible.
- Band Camp will be from July 13-17 and July 27-30. The first week will be Marching Fundamentals and the second week will be learning the marching field drill. **Attendance at camp is a requirement and missing any portion of the camp may result in forfeiture of your spot on the marching field during the season.** Exceptions to this rule will be made on a case-by-case basis and are dependent on communication with the director with advance notice. Absences with reasons given on the same day or after the fact will not be excused.
- **An evening band rehearsal schedule will be released before school starts. All members will be expected to be at all rehearsals - any conflicts with other activities need to be worked out ahead of time.**
- If a student is healthy enough to attend school during the day, they must attend morning and/or evening rehearsals. .

- If you are injured, you must continue to attend all rehearsals and performances and participate to the fullest extent that your injury allows, unless there is medical reason to avoid the event. This would need to be documented by your medical professional to become an excused absence.
- All students must have a back-up plan that will allow them to attend rehearsals and performances on time should their primary means of transportation fail. “Not having a ride” is not an acceptable excuse for missing rehearsals.
- Outdoor rehearsal will only be canceled during extreme inclement weather (thunderstorms). Rehearsal will be moved inside in these cases of heavy rain, heavy wind or lightning. The band may rehearse outside during light to moderate rain. Decisions about the location of rehearsal will be made by the director. Always come dressed to rehearse outside.
- Two tardies will constitute an unexcused absence.

Unexcused Absence Guidelines:

- 1 - Warning, Discussion with Directors
- 2 - Discussion with Parents
- 3 - Miss Current Week's Performance (show up, remain on sideline)
- 4+ - Removal from Competition Show (show up, remain on sideline)

Your attendance is vital to our success. Life happens, the MOST important thing to remember is to communicate with the director. Our goal is to work as a team to create something incredible. Most issues can be resolved with communication with the director. It's only when communication fails that disciplinary action shall occur.

Grading Policy

Evening Practices: 100 points each

Football Games: 300 points each

Marching / Concert Band Contests: 500 points each*

Christmas / Spring Concerts: 500 points each**

Weekly Participation: 20 points earned each day for a total of 100 points each week

Playing Tests: 25-100 points each dependant on the length of each test

**Note: If you miss a Contest or Concert for ANY unexcused reason, your semester grade will be deducted a full letter grade. You can not miss a contest or concert and receive an A for the semester.*

***Note: The Christmas and Spring Concerts are considered your mid-term and final exams and will be graded as such.*

Potential Deductions

Tardy from Rehearsal: Two tardies equal an unexcused absence (explained in attendance policy).

Missing equipment/unprepared: Loss of daily participation grade (20 points)

The grading system is designed to put a heavy emphasis on extracurricular practices and performances. Students who are chronically ineligible and/or miss performances will not earn passing grades and will forfeit their position both on the field and in the band class.

Performance and rehearsal attendance is vital - as it not only affects the student who is missing the activity, but also all of their peers and the overall program!

Uniforms

The average modern marching band uniform costs between \$350-500 per uniform. It is IMPERATIVE that we take special care to make sure these uniforms last for many years. In order to do so, we must have specific guidelines on how to properly care for them.

- When not being worn, the uniform must be hung up properly on hangers and hung up properly inside the garment bag, and put away properly.
- Official band show shirt must be worn underneath uniform jacket
- Long black socks for each performance in uniform - no ankle length, as they will show skin between the sock and uniform bibbers
- Must have jacket zipped up at all times in public
- Jewelry must not be worn in uniform
- All uniforms must be turned in on the specified date at the end of the year. If at any time during the marching season the uniform is damaged the student will be responsible for replacement costs.

- Alternate uniforms may be worn during the first few games of the season, decided on by the director. This would include: Show Shirt, Regular Style Blue Jeans (no low cut or ripped jeans), Black Socks and Shoes. You must be able to tuck your shirt into your jeans

Travel Procedures

A complete itinerary for each performance day will be available for students in the days leading up to the trip and will be posted on the Band App. These itineraries will list our best approximations for the time that we will return to Mansfield.

Please make arrangements to pick up your student promptly following band events so the staff may be able to return home at a reasonable hour. All announcements in regards to arrival times will be communicated through the Parent Band App chat, please do not mute these notifications as you will miss important information.

Students are required to ride the bus to band events. Students may travel home from band events with a parent. In order to do this, the parent (NOT THE STUDENT) must check out the student by signing the transportation sheet.

If a parent does check the student out, they are not permitted to leave until the entire band is dismissed (this includes home football games and post-game duties. Failure to follow this process - for example, a parent wanting to leave early and taking their child with them, is subject to the student grade being considered absent for the full performance. We arrive and leave together as a group. The reasoning behind this is, we are ALL tired and want to go home and it is unfair to the ensemble. We work together, and we leave together).

Bus drivers will be treated with respect and gratitude. Failure to do this will result in your loss of travel privileges with the band program.

The condition of the buses and any location we visit will be cleaner when we leave than they were when we arrived. We will take pride in not only our facilities and buses, but the property of other schools and locations. It is imperative that we reflect the values of Mansfield School District wherever we go. This is an area that we struggled in last year, and we will strive to make improvements.

Please be respectful of others when traveling on a bus. Strong odors like perfume, body sprays, hairspray are unacceptable.

School Owned Instruments

The student is solely responsible for the care of school-owned instruments checked out to them. Students will be charged for the replacement cost of a lost or damaged instrument due to neglect. Please treat these instruments with respect - we are lucky to have them. If you are found to be not taking care of your instrument, not putting it away properly, or not tending to it in a way that an expensive instrument deserves, you will lose your rights to the use of school owned instruments. This is an area we struggled in the past year, and we will strive to improve. Failure to do so will result in fees and fines being assigned for leaving instruments out and not away properly, as these instruments require repair and more costly maintenance costs.

Additional Performance Opportunities

Students are strongly encouraged to take part in the many additional activities and competitions that are offered in the Mansfield Band Program. Participation in these activities will develop stronger musicians and will in turn make us all better. Students who participate in these programs will be more prepared for university level participation in band as well as the possibility of receiving college band scholarships. The following activities are some of which are offered:

- Junior High All Region Auditions / Clinic
- High School All Region Auditions / Clinic
- Small Band All Star Auditions / Clinic
- OSSBDA Small School All-State Band
- District & State Solo & Ensemble

Each activity has fees and requirements that are associated with it. Ask a director for details.



2026-2027

MEMBERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION CONTRACT

Participation in the organization is a privilege that carries certain responsibilities. To help insure continued success, band members and parents should carefully read the Mansfield High School Band Handbook for the 2026-2027 School Year. After reading the handbook, students and parents who are willing to make a commitment to the Band should sign this contract and return a copy immediately. **A student will not be able to participate in Band Camp without a signed contract and will risk forfeiture of their spot in the competitive show.**

Again, as a member of the Mansfield High School Band organization we will actively and aggressively pursue excellence. To be successful, ALL members of the band MUST do their part. Leadership (director, parents and student leaders) are to be treated with respect by all band members and that respect should be reciprocated. Student attitudes must remain positive. Punctuality is a MUST for ALL events. Failure in any of these areas will result in a less productive and successful year for everyone involved.

Student's Printed Name: _____

I have read the Mansfield Band Handbook and agree to meet the expectations for participation in the Mansfield Band Program. I understand that participation in band is a privilege and failure to meet these expectations will negatively affect my grade and may result in loss of participation privileges.

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

I have read the Mansfield Band handbook and have explained the importance of commitment to my student. I understand my role as a parent and Band Booster and the expectations and the level of commitment required for my student to participate in the Mansfield Band Program. I further understand that failure to meet these expectations will negatively affect my student's grade and may result in the loss of participation privileges.

Parent Signature: _____ **Date:** _____