

HASTINGS HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND



2011 Handbook

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Dear Students and Parents,

Hello! It is with great excitement and anticipation that I welcome you to the Hastings High School Raiders Marching Band. Welcome back to all returning veterans. I hope this letter finds you excited and anxious to start the 2011 marching season. I look forward to a year of continuing successes, traditions, and friendships. We have an excellent show picked out for this season, some new venues for performing, along with continuing some well-loved shows.

The success of our season will hinge on each individual's commitment to their role in the marching band. The level of talent in our organization is amazing. Only the highest level of dedication will allow us to continue with the progress we've made in our previous years of marching. Many aspects of rehearsal and performances will be the same as years past. Some aspects will be very different. Be ready to embrace new challenges and goals.

In this handbook attached, you will find policies, procedures, and other important information regarding the Marching Raiders. All returning and perspective members must take the time to read this material, as the success of our band depends upon each individual working toward the same goals. Keep this handbook in a safe place for future reference. Please fill out the registration form and turn them in before May 1st. I look forward to working with each and every one of you.

Sincerely,

Emily Chandler

HOW TO REGISTER FOR MARCHING BAND

Step 1:

Carefully look over the information in this packet with your parents. Make sure to get all of your questions answered. We want you to be informed about all expectations and procedures from the beginning. Go over the schedule listed on the website.

Step 2:

Make a firm commitment to this organization. Participation in all scheduled practices and performances is expected. You must commit to excellence for us to achieve our goals.

Step 3:

Fill out all necessary forms including: (1) Registration form (2) Student Health form-notarized (3) *Code of Conduct form-notarized (4) Trip Liability Form-notarized. **REGISTRATION FORM IS DUE BY MAY 1ST**. All other forms are due June 1st.

Step 4:

Mark your calendar with practices and performances. They are set far in advance to help you work out conflicts. Percussion and guard will have a separate schedule, as well as the band schedule.

COMMITMENT

Commitment is what transforms a promise into reality. It is the words that speak boldly of your intentions, and the actions which speak louder than the words. It is making the time when there is none. Coming through time after time after time, year after year after year. Commitment is the stuff character is made of; the power to change the face of things. It is the daily triumph of integrity over skepticism. It is knowing the difference between being patient or being bored. It is what separates those “who can” from those “who didn’t.”

PHILOSOPHY OF THE MARCHING BAND

Our goal is to provide students with a meaningful, enjoyable and rewarding experience through musical growth, dedication, student leadership, loyalty, and community service. We will represent Hastings High School and the community as ambassadors of excellence, pride and character.

MEMBERSHIP

Wind and Percussion players **must** be enrolled in a Hastings High School instrumental course for the upcoming school year. There will be no tryouts for wind players, but it is understood that all students must share the common goal of working hard as an individual to improve the group as a whole. All percussion players will be assigned a position in the section by the percussion instructor. The color guard and honor guard is open to students not enrolled in the music programs.

SECTIONS OF THE MARCHING BAND

A marching band is divided into four parts. It is the harmony and complete coordination of these sections that creates excellence and a product that is rewarding for members and spectators alike. The following is a short description of the different sections.

THE WIND SECTION: This section is made up of all regular band instruments. Most common are piccolo, flutes, clarinets, saxophones, mellophone (marching French horns), trumpets, trombones, baritones, and tubas. This section of the band produces most of the music that you hear. They are responsible for a majority of the drill forms that you see on the field. They wear marching uniforms with most pieces provided by the school. Students playing a wind instrument in marching band must be registered for a band or orchestra class in the fall of 2011.

THE PERCUSSION SECTION: This section is made up of many concert percussion instruments as well as the marching percussion instruments. For the summer, all members march in the battery. For fall, the group is split up into two sections; the front line and the battery. Instrumentation for these sections is as follows. Front Line: All concert instruments used in percussion in an indoor setting. Mallet percussion (bells, xylophone, marimba, vibes), timpani, cymbals, sound effects, etc. It may also include such things as guitar, keyboard, electronic sounds. The battery percussion is the “meat and potatoes” of the percussion section. It includes marching snare drum, marching tenors, marching bass drums and marching cymbal line. The drumline is responsible for providing pulse and color to the music. They are responsible for providing a cadence to march to. They wear marching uniforms with most pieces provided by the school. Students playing a wind instrument in marching band must be registered for a band or orchestra class in the fall of 2011.

THE COLOR GUARD: This section adds the color, impact, pizzazz, emotion, and visual interpretation of the music that the winds and percussion perform on the field. This is done with many different effects, including dance/movement, flags, rifles, sabers, props and other apparatus. **NO EXPERIENCE IS NECESSARY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE COLOR GUARD.** Members of the color guard have outfits designed new and made to fit the theme of the show each season. There is an additional fee for the color guard uniforms.

THE HONOR GUARD: This section leads the entire marching band. The equipment includes the banner, American flag, POW flag, and rifles. This section does not rehearse as often, and only participates in the parades. Students entering 8th grade can join honor guard. The honor guard wears the marching uniforms with most pieces provided by the school.

DRUM MAJORS

The staff shall appoint the Drum Major, following an application and interview process. This position is open to juniors or seniors. Membership in any performing unit of the marching band for at least one season immediately prior to tryouts shall be a prerequisite to the position. The Drum Major is second in command to the staff. They will be expected to attend every practice and performance unless an emergency arises.

SECTION LEADERS

The staff will appoint section leaders, following an application and interview process. This position is open to sophomores, juniors and seniors. They must display a high level of musicianship and have the ability to lead their section while maintaining a positive rapport. In addition, they will take attendance, run all music section/guard rehearsals and uniform inspection before all performances. All section problems should be directed to these leaders and they will relay problems to the Director. If the section leader is not fulfilling their duties, it is up to the discretion of the staff to replace them.

REHEARSAL AND PERFORMANCE PROCEDURES

MSHSL Rules and policies are in effect: Rule violations cannot be tolerated and will result in suspension or removal from the marching band.

1. All members will attend all rehearsals on time unless written excuse is given to the staff in advance by the parents. Notifying staff **after** rehearsal will still mark as an unexcused absence, unless an emergency arises.
2. Early dismissal from a rehearsal will be permitted only when the staff is informed in advance in writing.
3. In case of bad weather, rehearsals will be held indoors.
4. Each member is responsible for taking his/her own equipment/music to/from rehearsals. All instruments should be in good working order at all times. Instruments/equipment forgotten for performance will count as an unexcused absence.
5. Food is not allowed in the band room. Gum is **NOT ALLOWED**, ever. It is very unsafe to play your instrument and chew gum.
6. Tennis shoes are required for every rehearsal, members will be sent home with an unexcused absence without these.

PERFORMANCE PROCEDURES

1. All members will remain with the band until dismissed by the staff.
2. All members will attend all performances unless a written notice is given to the staff and excused in advance.
3. All cheering will be done in good taste and in the appropriate places.
4. At football games, file in together, and proceed to bleachers. Sit in sections and do not leave the band block until given permission. Students will be released to get concessions after the start of second quarter. At that time, no more than 3 students will be dismissed at a time.
5. Students will **NOT** play their instrument while in transition.
6. Please see the uniform section on proper wear at performances.

If such procedures are not followed, these are the steps that will be taken:

1. Student will be given a warning about their behavior
2. Student will be given a warning, event will be unexcused, parent will be notified
3. Student will be suspended from the next performance and it will be unexcused

If the misbehavior reoccurs, a meeting with the Directors, student, parent, and administration

EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

1. A positive attitude
2. Your instrument in working order. Including reeds, mallets/sticks, valve oil, etc...
3. Music, set book, drill chart (even after it's memorized)
4. A BIG water bottle and lots of sunscreen
5. Tennis shoes/gym shoes. Required for practice-NO SANDALS-NO EXCEPTIONS
6. Wear appropriate clothing such as shorts, sweats, t-shirts. Denim of any kind is not recommended (too hot).
7. A pen or pencil that can hang on a string around your neck.
8. Something to cover your head outside in the heat.
9. Lyre and flip folder (winds only in fall)

There may be additional items as we approach the start of the season. All students will be contacted directly if there are any changes.

PEP BAND AT FOOTBALL GAMES

The marching band serves as the pep band during regular season home football games. It is our responsibility to provide entertainment throughout the game. We remain in our section/row to be ready to perform. Instrument safety and uniform cleanliness are very important in the bleachers. We are still in "performance mode" even though we are not on the field.

MUSIC/SET BOOK

Each member is responsible for keeping track of his or her own music/set book. Do not take another member's music under any circumstance. If music is missing, a report must be made to the section leader. A set book for fall is required. It is a small spiral notebook supplied by the student. This is to be present for **every** rehearsal.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

You are the vital link to the success of this program. By being a part of this program, you are committing to the entire schedule. You should approach marching band with the same attitude and commitment level you would any other activity. Absences due to illness must be cleared with a written note or a phone call to the director from you parent/guardian. Most athletic conflicts can be worked around. Early and honest communication with the director is necessary for proper consideration of these conflicts.

IT IS IMPOSSIBLE to make up group rehearsal time. Every member of this group has an important part. There is no "bench". Every student is a "starter". When someone is missing, we cannot operate at 100%. You are important. Communicate early and clearly with Mrs. Chandler if you have any questions regarding this policy.

The single greatest obstacle standing between us and the goal of excellence is attendance. Please make sure you understand the following policy:

1. Students who are unable to attend the rehearsal leading up to a performance may be unable to participate in that performance. Complex revisions learned at the last rehearsal prior to a performance may prevent you from knowing what to do. You will be expected to accompany the band to the competition and assist the band in a non-performance role.
2. Students will not be excused from marching band rehearsals/performances for work.
3. Students missing rehearsal the day of a performance for any reason may not be allowed to march in the show that day.
4. Everyone in the marching band is expected to attend every performance. Students not attending a performance for any reason (other than a death in the family) may be removed from participating in the marching band.

THIS POLICY IS A GUIDELINE. We know students are involved in many activities and time management is crucial. Please work through any conflicts or discuss with Mrs. Chandler.

BAND LETTER POINTS

By attending all rehearsals and performances, a member of the Raiders Marching band may earn points towards a Varsity Letter in Band. Points for lettering is based on time commitment to the program. Every member who satisfactorily completes the season will be eligible to receive letter points that can be applied towards earning a varsity letter. Any student will be considered ineligible to letter if the following occurs: **Three** performances missed for **ANY** reason (including football game performances), **four** unexcused absences from practices (please see below), or **Eight** tardies to practice. These points will be added together with other points your child can earn through the band program. All letters will be distributed at the spring band concert.

COLOR GUARD LETTER

Those students participating in color guard may learn a guard letter by successfully completing the required time commitments stated above. The guard letter will also be distributed at the spring band concert.

ABSENCES AND TARDIES

In order for an absence or tardy to be excused, a signed note or a phone call from a parent/guardian must be presented to the staff. If this is not done, the absence or tardy will not be excused unless an emergency situation arises. Attendance will always be taken at the beginning of all rehearsals/performances. Because the marching band schedule is presented many months in advance, **work related absences are not excused.** Students that are in other activities that conflict with marching band are expected to “share” their time between activities. They will not be excused if they are continually missing marching band for another activity. **If a student is LATE to a practice more than 8 times (not counting a school commitment), they will also lose their points.**

SCHOOL OWNED EQUIPMENT

1. A school-owned instrument is the student’s responsibility.
2. Damages due to negligence of the student will be charged to the student.
3. Damage or stolen instruments must be reported immediately to the Director.
4. Designated storage areas should be kept orderly at all times. Instruments should be kept in their cases and packed away in proper spaces.

PERCUSSION EQUIPMENT

1. The percussion equipment is the property of the Marching Band and should be cared for as such. It is not to be used by any organization outside of the music department, or played by any student that is not a percussionist.
2. It is the percussionist’s responsibility before every performance or practice to check the equipment and see that it is in good condition.
3. The percussion equipment will be stored in a designated area. After a practice or performance, it should be returned immediately to this area.
4. Damaged or stolen equipment must be reported immediately to the Director and Percussion Instructors. All equipment will be issued to each member, and checked for damages at the end of the season. Such damage will be charged to the individual issued the instrument.

COLOR GUARD EQUIPMENT

1. Each member is responsible for making a "Flag Bag" out of heavy, oversized or beach towels to carry equipment in and to have at least one roll of black and one roll of white electrical tape with them at all rehearsals.
3. Guard members will be permitted to check out equipment for home practice. A \$75 deposit is required from all members to use the equipment. This will be returned at the end of the year if all the equipment is returned in good care, up to the discretion of the guard staff.

Individuals are responsible for ensuring that their instrument/equipment is on the trailer/bus when it leaves and when it returns to school.

UNIFORMS

Uniforms will be issued prior to the performance season. The uniform is the responsibility of the marcher assigned to it. It is the individual's responsibility to care for, and not to damage, mutilate or neglect in any way, the uniform issued to them. A student will be assessed a replacement fee for lost or damaged equipment. Any damage caused to this uniform will be billed to the marcher. If your uniform gets stained during the season, it is your responsibility to dry clean the uniform before the next performance. Uniforms will be collected at the end of the season. Students will receive jacket, sash, pants, gauntlets and hats. Gloves and shoes will be purchased by the individuals. Long black socks and a black t-shirt will be worn by the marcher and supplied by the marcher. This does not include color guard.

WEARING THE UNIFORM

1. Section leaders prior to every performance will conduct a formal inspection.
2. Wear your uniform with pride! When in any part of uniform, all members will conduct themselves in a respectable manner at all times. No running in any part of uniform.
3. Students who do not have complete uniforms will not march in that performance, and will be counted as an unexcused absence.
4. **Do not wear any other member's uniform under any circumstance.**
5. The uniform is worn with all parts intact. When not performing, but while at an event, the hats, gloves and gauntlets may be removed, but the rest of the uniform must remain intact.
6. All members must be in shoes, pants, and suspenders for practice before a show, considered to be "half uniform."
7. Absolutely no food or beverage (except water) should be consumed while in uniform.

UNIFORM REPAIRS

1. If the uniform distributed to you is damaged, report it immediately to the director.
2. If the uniform needs repair (tears, loose material, buttons, etc.) show it to the director for instruction.

APPEARANCE AND GROOMING

When in uniform, hair is to be worn above the collar and behind the ears. Anyone not able to meet this requirement must either cut their hair or put it up so it will stay under their hat. Bobby pins, hair nets, and other inconspicuous devices should be used to hold hair in place. Headbands that are not hair color must NOT be worn.

Heavy makeup is NOT ALLOWED to be worn during a performance (excluding color guard costuming). It detracts from the performance and may also ruin the uniform. NAIL POLISH SEEN THROUGH GLOVES MUST NOT BE WORN.

All members must be clean-shaven and all jewelry (including earrings-gentlemen too) must be removed prior to every performance.

HOMEWORK

School is more important than ANY high school activity. You must make sure that you do your assignments in a timely fashion. Start them early, finish them early.....Marching band should never be an excuse for late assignments or incomplete projects. Nor should marching band practice be missed for you to catch up on your homework. Help to develop time management skills so missing practice time is not an option for homework completion.

PARENT HELP

One of the biggest success stories we hope to create at Hastings High School is the support of it's members' parents. The band program is too complex and will grow too large to function without an active support base. If each parent could contribute a small amount of time and talent to the band, it will assist in providing necessary logistical support, chaperoning and allow parents to get to know each other and the students. Please see the registration form for a list of activities, and sign up. We are always looking for families with a ¾ ton or larger vehicle to pull our marching band trailer to shows. Please sign up if you are interested.

FUNDRAISING AND STUDENT ACTIVITY ACCOUNTS

Each student has an individual band account where money paid by parents and fundraised money is deposited into. This can be viewed on www.hastingsbands.org. This account is only for band/marching band and cannot be transferred to another school group. Money remains in the account until the child graduates. Money deposited cannot be refunded but may be transferred to a sibling participating in the band program. For more information on student accounts, please read the in-depth information on the website.

Many fundraisers are offered throughout the year for the benefit of students and parents. Please visit the website for a complete list of fundraisers and how you can take advantage of them.

FINANCIAL NEED/FEE WAIVER

If your child is currently receiving assistance from the school district with free/reduced lunch programs, you may qualify for reduced activity fee options. This pertains to the district activity fee portion only. Please contact Mike Johnson, principal to request further information.
mjohnson@hastings.k12.mn.us.

Money is tight everywhere. Please DO NOT let a financial issue be the reason to eliminate your child from the experience of the Raiders Marching Band. If your family is facing some tough decisions, please contact Mrs. Chandler to discuss possibilities for alternative payment options. Strict confidentiality will be adhered to.

I have read the marching band handbook and comply with the policies set forth by the Hastings High School Music Department.

Student's name _____

Signature _____

Parent/Guardian's signature _____

Please return this portion to school no later than June 1st