

MT. VERNON HIGH SCHOOL

2018-19 Band Program Handbook



Director of Bands

Derek Ellinger

derek.ellinger@mvcsc.k12.in.us

Percussion Director

Greg Wolff

percussion.director@mvcsc.k12.in.us

Guard Director

Thomas Thawley

guard.director@mvcsc.k12.in.us

Performing Arts Administrative Assistant

Christy Stiff

christy.stiff@mvcsc.k12.in.us

8112 N 200 W, Fortville, IN 46040

www.MVHSMusic.org/

“Can you take band every year and receive a Core 40 diploma!?”

YES!!!

Sample Four-Year Plan – Core 40

<u>FRESHMAN</u>	<u>Quarter 1</u>	<u>Quarter 2</u>	<u>Quarter 3</u>	<u>Quarter 4</u>
<u>Class 1</u>	Band (+PE I)	Band	Band	
<u>Class 2</u>	English 9		Biology	
<u>Class 3</u>	Algebra I		Geography or World History	
<u>Class 4</u>	Elective	Elective	Elective	PE II

<u>SOPHOMORE</u>	<u>Quarter 1</u>	<u>Quarter 2</u>	<u>Quarter 3</u>	<u>Quarter 4</u>
<u>Class 1</u>	Band			
<u>Class 2</u>	English 10		Chemistry	
<u>Class 3</u>	Geometry		Health	Elective
<u>Class 4</u>	Elective	Elective	Elective	Elective

<u>JUNIOR</u>	<u>Quarter 1</u>	<u>Quarter 2</u>	<u>Quarter 3</u>	<u>Quarter 4</u>
<u>Class 1</u>	Band			
<u>Class 2</u>	English 11		Physics	
<u>Class 3</u>	Algebra II		US History	
<u>Class 4</u>	Elective	Elective	Elective	PFR or ARR

<u>SENIOR</u>	<u>Quarter 1</u>	<u>Quarter 2</u>	<u>Quarter 3</u>	<u>Quarter 4</u>
<u>Class 1</u>	Band			
<u>Class 2</u>	English 12		Government	Economics
<u>Class 3</u>	Math Elective		Elective	Elective
<u>Class 4</u>	Elective	Elective	Elective	Elective

This table provides a recommended list of courses to take each year. You will not necessarily take a certain class during the quarter or year shown on the table.

~ This table has been reviewed and approved by the Mt. Vernon High School Guidance Office. ~

Students can earn a Core 40 diploma while enrolled in band each year and have 19 quarters available for additional electives!!!

See the inside back cover for an example Core 40 w/ Academic Honors diploma schedule.

Welcome to another great year at Mt. Vernon High School! It will be a year full of excitement, hard work, fun, and new opportunities for personal growth. We will come together as parents, students, and staff to work towards a common goal of education, excellence, and making music. Our mission in the Mt. Vernon High School band program is to teach life lessons through the experience of music. We are excited you have chosen to participate in band and look forward to working with you to provide life-changing experiences for all involved.

This handbook contains all necessary information for you to have a successful year in the band program. The final pages are to be filled out and returned by the designated due dates. If you have any questions regarding the information located in this handbook, please do not hesitate to contact any of the individuals listed at the bottom of this page.

We hope you choose to be active in your child's experience by volunteering as a member of the Music Boosters, attending practices and performances, and/or becoming involved in any capacity possible. We *cannot* have a successful band program without a great support system!

Let's have a great year of making music at Mt. Vernon High School!

Derek Ellinger, Director of Bands
Mt. Vernon High School

Music Boosters Contact Information

Performing Arts Administrative Assistant

Christy Stiff	317-485-3131 x1418	christy.stiff@mvcsc.k12.in.us
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Booster Officers

President	Kyra Davis	kyralexis72@gmail.com
Vice President	Cami Demaree	csdemaree1967@gmail.com
Treasurer	Dawn Ehrgott	ehrgott.mvmb@gmail.com
Secretary	Dana Drew	danadrew@comcast.net

Committee Chairs

Student Accounts	Christy Stiff	christy.stiff@mvcsc.k12.in.us
Volunteer Coordinator	Brooke Night	brookenigh@gmail.com
Fundraising Coordinator	Christy Stiff	christy.stiff@mvcsc.k12.in.us
Equip./Props/Maintenance Coordinator	Brett Bowman	brettb976@yahoo.com
Hospitality Coordinator	Donna Callahan	callahanbunch4@att.net
Uniform Coordinator	Cynthia Johnson	cynthiajohnson751@gmail.com
SCRIP Coordinator	Donna Callahan	callahanbunch4@att.net
Spirit Coordinator	Misty Stanton	misty.stanton@mvcsc.k12.in.us

Mt. Vernon High School Band Program Opportunities

NOTE: Most ensembles will have a brief addendum to this handbook provided at the start of each activity.

CONCERT BANDS – Wind Ensemble/Symphonic Band

Mt. Vernon High School has two levels of concert bands to meet the needs of each student's musical development. Our concert bands perform many times throughout the school year and participate at the ISSMA Organizational Festival every spring. Students will have the opportunity to work with guest clinicians, guest conductors, and other outside experts in the field of music. We end our school year with 'Extravaganza', a two-day show featuring multiple ensembles, which has been held annually since 1964.

'BAND OF MARAUDERS' MARCHING BAND

The 'Band of Marauders' is one of the most exciting and visible performing ensembles offered at Mt. Vernon High School. During the summer, the ensemble begins practicing its show, which blends exciting music with unique visuals. Students will have the opportunity to compete with other bands from around the state at various marching invitationals and at official ISSMA (Indiana State School Music Association) competitions.

JAZZ BAND

Jazz band is a smaller performing group focusing on the styles of swing, bebop, rock, and funk. Students involved in jazz band work on the development of basic jazz and pop styles, as well as solo development and improvisation. The jazz band performs at concerts, the ISSMA Jazz Festivals, and at other performances.

PEP BAND

Pep band is a voluntary group that performs at varsity men's and women's basketball games. The music is fast-paced and fun! It is far more engaging and interactive than the music performed in other ensembles.

WINTER PERCUSSION PROGRAM

Mt. Vernon's winter percussion program begins shortly after the conclusion of our marching band season. This ensemble offers percussion and select non-percussion students to prepare a performance focusing solely on percussion equipment. The winter percussion ensemble performs during the spring semester at concerts, basketball games, and competes in the IPA (Indiana Percussion Association).

WINTER GUARD PROGRAM – Varsity Guard/JV Guard

Mt. Vernon's winter guard program begins shortly after the conclusion of our marching band season. Any student in the school corporation in grades 5-12 may participate in one of our winter guards. Guard members participate in a high-energy visual performance synecdoche to music, using dance, flag, rifle, and sabre. Both guards perform at basketball games. The Varsity Guard competes during the spring semester in the IHSCGA (Indiana High School Color Guard Association) and WGI (Winter Guard International).

PIT ORCHESTRA

Mt. Vernon High School band students and professional musicians make up the pit orchestra for our musical(s). This ensemble typically begins preparing music two months prior to opening night. The theater department may hold a musical in the fall, spring, or both seasons.

STEEL PAN PROGRAM

The steel pan program is a unique ensemble offered at Mt. Vernon High School. Typically called a "steel drum," these instruments are well-suited to perform various musical genres. This ensemble performs calypso and soco styles, the original music created for these instruments, but also performs pop and jazz music. Mt. Vernon is fortunate to be one of the few high schools in the state of Indiana with a steel pan program. It is a very popular, fun, and engaging ensemble!

Website

mvhsmusic.org

Please visit our website frequently for updates and information regarding the band program. The website contains information such as:

- Band Program Master Calendar
- Trip Itineraries for all groups
- Link to Online Fee Center
- Link to MyMusicOffice
- Blog with news and events
- Suggestions for high school-level mouthpieces
- Suggestions for percussion equipment
- Music Boosters meeting minutes
- Music Booster Information
- How to contact us
- Staff bios and links to their website (when applicable)

...and much more!

MyMusicOffice

mymusicoffice.com

MyMusicOffice is an online database for families to track student band accounts, pay band fees online, and keep track of band locker combinations. Families must use this service regularly to keep students up-to-date on fees.

Logging on for the First Time

1) Visit: **MyMusicOffice.com**

2) Log on under **Family/Booster Login**

Username: **mv + first initial + last name + grad year** (example: John Smith = mvjsmith2020)

Password: **student**

3) Change Your Password

-Click **Edit Your Login Information** at the bottom of the screen

-*Please Note:* Mr. Ellinger will have access to this password. Keep it unique and *appropriate!*

-Click "Submit Edits" to save your changes

4) Update Student Information

-Click **View/Update Your Contact Information**

-Enter *all* information for the student and *both* parents

-Click "Submit Edits" at the bottom of the screen to save your changes

5) Check Band Account

-Click "View Student Account Register"

-Positive Amount: Money Owed

-Negative Amount: Money Credited to Account

-Click **Statement Icon** to view to view a statement of your band account

-Click **Payment Icon** to be directed to the Mt. Vernon HS Band Online Fee Center

REMIND Text Message Service

Remind is a free text messaging service that allows band directors and staff to send reminders and information to students and parents. Phone numbers are kept private. Staff do not have access to student/parent phone numbers and students/parents do not have access to staff phone numbers.

How to Sign Up

Text “@mvbandhs” to “81010”

If this is your first time using Remind

- You will receive a text message asking for your name
- Enter your *first* and *last* name only. This is how your teacher/staff member will recognize you.
- Parents:** Please do not enter your child’s name in parenthesis.

How To Pay Fees

Online Fee Center

mvhsband.bigcartel.com

You can use this website to pay band fees online. All payments are deposited directly into your child’s band account. The available fees rotate as ensembles start and end throughout the school year. One persistent option is the “\$1” option, which you can use to enter an exact amount into your child’s account. Please allow a few days for the Music Boosters treasurer to transfer money to the appropriate account.

Deposit Box

Checks payable to “*MVMB*”

Cash, checks, and money orders can be placed in the deposit box located on the wall to the right of the music office. The Music Booster treasurer is the **only** individual with a key to this box and it is checked regularly. Please allow a few days for the treasurer to transfer money to your student’s account.

Envelopes are available at the deposit box to indicate the student, activity, and amount enclosed for each payment. Envelopes must be filled out completely to ensure your money goes to the correct place.

Credit Card

Credit Card payments will be available at select dates and events throughout the year. Please contact the Performing Arts Administrative Assistant or Music Booster Treasurer for more information.

A note about transaction fees...

All credit card payments are assessed a credit card transaction fee of roughly 2.9%. This fee is added to each credit card based payment option. *All* organizations/companies accepting credit card payments are assessed fees by credit card companies for every transaction. Unlike large corporations, we do not have the resources to cover these fees. Please understand our need to pass this cost on to you for the convenience of accepting payments via credit cards.

Mt. Vernon Music Boosters Financial Policies

The Music Boosters work very hard to keep fees as low as possible and to work with families suffering financial hardships. The Music Boosters developed the following financial policies in the best interest of the band program, students, parents, and the executive booster officers.

1. A student will not be permitted to join an extra-curricular ensemble if they have past due fees from any previous ensemble. Extra-curricular ensembles include: Marching Band, Color Guard, Winter Guard, Steel Pan, Jazz Band, Pep Band, Cadet Guard, and any other extra-curricular ensembles throughout the course of the school year.
2. A payment plan will be available for any ensemble with a fee over \$100. The Executive Booster Board will determine a payment plan for each ensemble. The list of payment amounts and dates of payments will be available in the handbook given to parents for each ensemble. A parent or guardian will sign the payment plan and return all necessary paperwork to the school along with the first non-refundable payment. This first payment acts as a deposit for the ensemble and must be submitted on time.
3. The Mt. Vernon Music Boosters will offer an extended payment plan for families communicating the need for smaller, more drawn out payments. This extended payment program can be done weekly or monthly. Each family requesting an extended payment plan must be in good standing with their student's past fees and will also be required to make the first non-refundable payment in full for each new ensemble in which their student is enrolled. The extended payment plans will be unique to each family's situation. A signed payment agreement will be completed between the parent and the current Mt. Vernon Music Boosters Treasurer and/or the Director of Bands. The treasurer will track all payments made on the extended plan as well as give notice to the family when they have completed their payment plan. All of the above policies still apply to families utilizing an extended payment program.
4. In the event a family/individual is unable to fulfill the fundraising activity they are signed up for, they are required to identify a replacement(s) for the slots they are unable to complete. If they do not have a replacement or just cause for cancelling, a fine will be incurred on your child's account commensurate with the amount lost due to lack of fulfilling the obligation.
5. Student accounts with large outstanding balances AND a lack of payment plan, lack of adhering to an established payment plan, lack of communication with the Music Boosters to bring an account current, and/or intentionally failing to make payments is subject to be reported to a collections agency. These policies are in line with financial policies established by the Mount Vernon Community School Corporation.

Mt. Vernon Music Boosters

We are fortunate to have an active and productive band booster organization, which raises thousands of dollars each year to help offset the cost of marching band and other band activities. This organization is an official 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Organization. Contact information for our Music Booster Executive Board can be found on Page 5.

Fundraisers

*The more **WE** fundraise, the lower our fees!*
*The more **YOU** fundraise, the less paid out-of-pocket!*

Persistent/Event-Based Fundraisers

- These fundraisers drop fees by hundreds of dollars
- Profits typically go to the band program

Restaurant Cards (Year-Round)

- \$\$\$ off restaurant bills at local restaurants
- 100% Profit!
- \$10 per Card
- \$10 to Student's Account for each sold after first three
- No limit to how many you can sell!

Sponsorship Credit (Year-Round)

- Students/families who find monetary sponsorships for the band program earn 10% of the total amount donated to their student account
- The sponsorship form's "Student Referral" MUST be filled out to receive credit!

SCRIP (Year-Round)

- Boosters buy face value gift cards at discounted prices
- The difference is credit to your child's band account
- Raise thousands per year by buying things you have to buy anyway (food, gas, clothing, etc)!!!

Show Hosting (Spring Semester)

- We will host a winter guard show in the Spring
- Student participation is mandatory!
- MANY parents needed!

Mattress Fundraiser (Spring)

- Sounds silly? Sure. Makes a ton of money? Absolutely.
- 2018 Profit: \$6,750

Connor Prairie (Year-Round)

- Volunteer selling concessions at Connor Prairie concert events...earn money for your band account

Snow Whirl/Princess Snow Whirl (Early December)

- High school formal dance, 1st or 2nd Saturday of December
- Daddy/daughter dance on Sunday following Snow Whirl
- Single most profitable fundraiser of the school year

Motorcycles for Marauders (Sat. between July camps)

- Motorcycle ride sponsored by band program
- Ride ends at MVHS with cookout and band playing pep band tunes

Traditional Perennial Fundraisers (not a complete list!)

- Profits from first few sold go to the band operating budget (# varies for each fundraiser)
- Profits from additional sold go directly to seller's student band account

Century Resources (October)

- Cheese, sausage, etc.!
- Students earn prizes for selling, large prizes to top sellers!

Butterbraid (Fall)

- Pastries!
- Delicious!

Laundry Detergent (July/August)

- Never buy laundry/dish soap/trash bags at the store again!
- Buy in bulk with us and save and earn money!

Pizzas (January – in time for Super Bowl!)

- Students sell pizzas and then make them on a Saturday leading up to the Super Bowl!
- Delicious and fun to make!

Expectations

1. BE PROFESSIONAL. This is the most important expectation in the band program. It encompasses everything we do during rehearsal, individual practice, and performance. This includes supporting each other's musical training and holding yourself to a standard of excellence in the community at all times.
2. RESPECT YOUR INSTRUMENT. Keeping your instrument in good working order is paramount to creating good sounds. Failure to properly maintain your instrument completely nullifies any attempts to create the best possible sounds. If you are using a school-owned instrument, treat it as though it were your own. Keep your instrument clean and polished, put it properly in its case, store the case appropriately, and have all necessary repairs made in a timely manner.
3. RESPECT YOUR FACILITY. This is your school. Mt. Vernon is *extremely* fortunate to have one of the most state-of-the-art music facilities in the Indiana. All students, parents, and staff are expected to pick up after themselves, store instruments in the proper location, and not bring food or drink into the performing arts area. Storage areas in the band room will be used for instruments and band equipment only. Please note that personal items (such as clothing, books, and other class materials) will not be stored in your band locker outside of class or rehearsal time. Also, the only items permitted in a rehearsal setting are those required for rehearsal. Instrument cases, other school materials, and all other miscellaneous items must be in your locker or the instrument locker room during rehearsal (NOT IN THE BAND ROOM).
4. RESPECT ONE ANOTHER. Showing respect for one another at all times is critical to our growth and success. During rehearsals and performances, do not worry about anyone other than yourself. Showing respect for each other, your instrument, each other's instrument, and each other's personal property is a priority.
5. LEARN YOUR MUSIC/WORK. Students are expected to prepare notes and rhythms during personal practice time outside of class. Failure to do so hinders our growth and success.

The following are examples of what it means to be professional:

- Be ON TIME. "To be on time is to be late. To be early is to be on time."
- Be prepared for rehearsal. This includes having the proper materials and a positive attitude.
- Remain quiet during rehearsal. This allows those being addressed to focus on improvement.
- 99% of the time, a reply of "Yes sir" or "No sir" is more than adequate.
- Practice at home...NOT DURING REHEARSALS. "Amateurs practice until they get it right...professionals practice until they cannot get it wrong."
- Always mind what you say when representing the band. Profanity is NOT tolerated.
- Extend respect to those outside the band. Leave a positive impression in the mind of others about the band and the school.
- Kindness can have the most profound impact of all. If you have nothing nice to say, keep it to yourself. If you will brighten someone's day...say it!

Performance Attendance Policy

Performances are **REQUIRED**. Excused absences for a concert will be handled on a case-by-case basis. These must be established at least two weeks before the performance in question and can be granted or denied at the discretion of Mr. Ellinger. Extenuating circumstances existing within the two-week period will be handled on a case-by-case basis. A make-up assignment will be provided for excused absences. The assignment will equal or surpass the time commitment required for the concert. Failure to turn in the make-up assignment on time will result in an unexcused absence.

For curricular courses, each unexcused absence from a performance will result in a two-letter grade deduction from the final nine-weeks' grade. Non-curricular courses will have consequences such as, but not limited to: inability to perform at the next performance, running or other physical activities, and/or removal from the activity (without refund). Performances are **REQUIRED. Plan ahead! All events listed on the removable schedules in this handbook are considered performances.**

Examples of excused absences:

- Funerals for a family member (documentation may be required)
- Illness/injuries (documentation by the attending physician is required)
- Activities sponsored by the Mt. Vernon Community School Corporation (accepted only with prior attempts to work around the conflict)

Examples of unexcused absences:

- Work
- Vacations
- Homework
- Non-IMMEDIATE family weddings
- Family outings
- Being "grounded"
- "I couldn't find a ride."

MVCSC-Band/Sports Conflict Resolution Policies

The following policies have been approved by the Principal, Athletic Director, and Director of Bands. Use these policies to determine which event you will attend (the sport, the band event, or both).

- An overlapping band practice and team practice will utilize a 50/50 split in time.
- A game/meet takes precedence over a band practice.
- A band competition/performance takes precedence over a team practice.
- An ISSMA event (marching band, concert band, etc) takes precedence over a regular-season game/meet.
- If a conflict occurs between a conference or play-off and an ISSMA event, the coach and band director will determine which activity the student will do (we will try to get them to both events if possible, even if this means missing the band's practice, the sport's practice, or both).
- Students involved in home varsity football games (football, cheerleading, or dance) will participate in football, cheerleading, or dance during the game and participate in the halftime performance with the band
- It is the student's responsibility to notify a coach and the band director of conflicts as soon as possible.

PLEASE NOTE:

Parents may be responsible for providing transportation between activities when two events occur the same day.

Social Media Policy

While using *any* form of a social media outlet, please adhere to the following policies. These guidelines are designed to help our program maintain a professional and positive public image. It also helps to maintain a collegial atmosphere throughout rehearsals (in other words, it will help us avoid drama).

Keep in mind that whatever you say on the internet is permanently and irreversibly available for anyone to view worldwide for the remainder of human history. This includes everything you delete and everything you post privately.

- Band members and adults connected to the Mt. Vernon Bands should not make statements that could be misunderstood as official policy of the band program.
- Band members and adults connected to the Mt. Vernon Bands should avoid escalating drama and spreading rumors about members of the band or the band as a whole.
- Making comments promoting poor sportsmanship will not be tolerated.
- Racial, sexist, homophobic, anti-religious, and any other inflammatory content directed toward ANY individual or organization will not be tolerated.
- Harassment or threats of violence made by a student or adult connected to the Mt. Vernon Bands toward anyone connected to the band department or any other organization will **not** be tolerated.
- Sexually explicit comments directed toward ANY individual or organization will **not** be tolerated.

Additional Guidelines

- Posting on marching band message boards such as Indianamarching.com should be avoided.
 - Nothing can be gained by making posts on such websites. Statements, even positive ones, can be misunderstood. In most cases, your comments will reflect on our program as a whole. Negative or misleading statements are a distraction from what we want to accomplish.
- Do not post any audio or video of our competitive show on YouTube, Facebook, or any other social media outlet until AFTER our first competition.
- Professionally produced “copyright protected” recordings should never be posted.

Travel/Bus Guidelines

Traveling to performances inside and outside of the Mt. Vernon High School community is a privilege that all marching band members will experience. This is not a privilege to be abused. Each band member must realize that personal behavior is a direct reflection on the band program at *all* times. All Mt. Vernon High School band members shall follow all band, school, county, state, and federal laws while on a trip. **Students must have a current travel permission slip and medical information sheet on file to travel with the band.**

Acceptable Bus Carry-On Items:

- *All* items must fit in *your* seat
 - Necessary band items for the performance
 - Dry, non-crumbling snacks
 - Bottled water
 - Pillow (no blankets)
 - Extra clothing (if applicable)
 - Headphones to use with sound-producing equipment

Each bus driver will ultimately determine what is acceptable for his/her bus. Each individual bus driver may disallow items deemed acceptable for bus travel by the band program.

Uniform Guidelines

Wearing our marching band uniform comes with a sense of pride, tradition, and excellence. For this reason, we must treat our uniforms with respect. Please do YOUR PART to keep our uniforms in great shape.

- When in public, you are to be in full uniform. This includes our coats being fastened properly and wearing or holding our shakos (hats) in the correct manner.
 - Any alteration to this policy will be made on a case-by-case basis at the sole discretion of the band director. Alterations are typically made based on the weather.
- Students must **ALWAYS** travel in pairs.
- Jewelry is not permitted while wearing our uniform. Please leave expensive and/or family keepsakes at home for safekeeping.
 - This includes visibly gauged body parts. Once jewelry is removed, a skin-matching bandage must be applied to a gauged body part.
- Fingernail polish and make-up is prohibited while in uniform (moderate mascara and eye liner are okay).
- Eating and drinking (except water) while in uniform is prohibited.
- Charges WILL be assessed for lost and/or damaged uniform parts.
 - Uniforms are extremely expensive. Handle them with care!
- Color guard uniform guidelines may vary year-to-year depending on each season's uniform. The color guard director will determine these guidelines with approval by the band director.

As a **representative** of Mt. Vernon High School and the community as a whole, it is imperative that our behavior and appearance be nothing short of the highest demeanor. This includes non-natural hair color (pink, green, yellow, etc.).

Acceptable appearance will ultimately be determined, without question, by the ensemble director.

Locks

Each band student will be provided with a school-owned lock to keep his or her equipment secure at all times. Students must keep their lock locked at all times. If a lock is lost or stolen, a \$10 charge will be applied to the student's band account to purchase a replacement lock. Students may not use their own lock.

Individually Owned Instruments

Instrument Care

Individually-owned instruments must be in good working condition at all times. Musicians *cannot* make high-quality sounds on their instrument if it is not in good working condition. Any damage or normal wear and tear must be tended to as soon as possible.

Liability

The school does not insure any privately owned equipment against loss, theft, and/or damage. We advise you to take out insurance on your instrument through a personal insurance organization in the event of loss and/or theft while the instrument is in use or stored at school. Be sure to keep a record of the make and serial number of your instrument and keep it in a safe place.

Instrument Rental

Rental Fees

Marching Season	\$30.00
Fall Concert Season	\$30.00
Spring Concert Season	\$30.00

Rental fees are due the *first* Friday of the *first full* week of the marching season and concert semesters.

All equipment owned by the school and borrowed by the student are the student's responsibility. Loss or damage to this equipment due to neglect and/or carelessness will be repaired at the student's expense. Band programs are extremely expensive to operate and maintain. Students should be aware of and considerate of the fact that they are *allowed* to use school-owned equipment.

1. Students are responsible for all repairs due to neglect and/or carelessness.
 - a. Signs of neglect and/or carelessness are obvious to the trained eye. The band director and our primary instrument repair vendor, Muncie Music Center, will make all final decisions regarding what is deemed neglectful and/or careless damage.
 - b. Neglect of an instrument may result in the student being denied usage of ANY and ALL band equipment for a length of time determined by the band director.
2. Instruments must be latched in their case and stored properly when not in use.
3. Any lost items from your instrument (such mouthpieces, ligatures, percussion equipment, etc.) will be replaced at the expense of the student renting the instrument.
4. The only person permitted to play a school-owned instrument is the student renting the instrument. This includes percussion equipment.
5. Use of school-owned equipment is restricted to Mt. Vernon High School band activities and cannot be used for rock bands or other special activities without consent from Mr. Ellinger. Violation of this policy will automatically result in the student being denied usage of ANY and ALL band equipment for a length of time determined by the band director.
6. Certain school-owned brass instruments *must* be handled with gloves at all times by students. Gloves cost \$5.00 and may be purchased from the band office.

Instruments Requiring Gloves

- Concert Tuba
- Concert Euphonium
- Marching Mellophone
- Marching Baritone
- Contra (Marching Tuba)

Drug, Alcohol, and Controlled Substance Policy

Use or possession of any tobacco product, alcoholic beverage, controlled substance, and/or drug paraphernalia is strictly prohibited and will be grounds for dismissal from the band program. Students found with these substances will be referred to the Mt. Vernon High School Guidance Department for rehabilitation. Furthermore, immediate notification will be made with parents, school administrators, and the proper authorities. Use of any illegal substances on a long trip will result in the student being sent home at the expense of the student's parent(s) and/or guardian(s).

Letter Jacket Requirements

General Policies

Students may purchase a letter jacket at any time. This is at the cost of each family. Patches and letters are awarded once earned. These are free for families. Other miscellaneous patches are available for purchase throughout the year from the respective organization (ISSMA, IHSGCA, IPA, IBA, WGI, etc.).

Band Program Patches

-Band Letter	-Pep Band
-Chevrons	-Jazz Band
-Concert Band	-Winter Guard
-“Band of Marauders”	-Indoor Percussion
	-Steel Pan Ensemble

Earning Patches

BAND LETTER Awarded by earning 125 merit points through band program participation (see below). Students will earn an additional chevron for each additional letter earned.

CHEVRONS Earned for each year of participation in the Mt. Vernon High School band program. A gold chevron is earned for each additional letter earned.

ENSEMBLES Earned by completing one full season with an ensemble. Fees must be paid in full.

Earning Your Letter

Students letter in band by earning 125 points through band participation. Students will earn an additional chevron for each additional letter earned. Students may submit a “Merit Point” worksheet, available in the band room, at any time to add merit points to our tracking system. Points are earned once the event has reached full completion. False information may result in the inability to earn additional merit points.

**-Earn 125 merit points to letter in band-
-Students will earn a GOLD CHEVRON for each additional letter earned-**

<u>Ensembles</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Activities (per year)</u>	<u>Points</u>
Concert Band	25	Solo & Ensemble District*	5 per Event
Marching Band*	25	Solo & Ensemble State*	5 per Event
Indoor Percussion*	25	All-District Honor Band Application	5
Winter Guard*	25	All-District Honor Band Participation	5
Pep Band	15	All-State Band Audition	5
Jazz Band	15	All-State Band Participation	10
Pit Orchestra	10	All-State Jazz Band Audition	5
Steel Pan Ensemble	10	All-State Jazz Band Participation	10
		Band Leadership Team Member	5
		DCI INPact Band Participation*	5

-All ensemble and activity points can be earned multiple times

-Example: 3 years of pep band will equal 45 points

-Points can be earned prior to high school for ensembles and activities with an asterisk ()*

-Example: Winter guard participation in grades 6, 7, and 8 results in 75 points

SAT/ACT TESTING DATES

Please keep this sheet throughout the school year. Planning ahead is extremely important. Do everything possible to avoid conflicts with all mandatory school-related events.

2018-19 Official SAT Test Dates

- August 25, 2018
- October 6, 2018
- November 3, 2018
- December 1, 2018
- March 9, 2019
- May 4, 2019
- June 1, 2019

Known Band Conflicts

Marching Band Practice – 12pm – 9pm
Marching Band Competition
Marching Band Open Class State Finals
None
None (**1st Saturday of Spring Break**)
None
None

2019-20 Anticipated SAT Test Dates

- August 24, 2019
- October 5, 2019
- November 2, 2019
- December 7, 2019
- March 14, 2020
- May 2, 2020
- June 6, 2020

2020-21 Anticipated SAT Test Dates

- August 29, 2020
- October 3, 2020
- November 7, 2020
- December 5, 2020
- March 13, 2021
- May 8, 2021
- June 6, 2021

2018-19 Official ACT Test Dates

- September 8, 2018
- October 27, 2018
- December 8, 2018
- February 9, 2019
- April 13, 2019
- June 8, 2019
- July 13, 2019

Known Band Conflicts

Marching Band Competition
Marching Band Open Class Semi-State
Snow Whirl (evening)
ISSMA Solo & Ensemble District Weather Date
ISSMA Concert Band Contest
None
None

CONCERT BAND
and
PERCUSSION CLASS
INFORMATION

Wind Ensemble/Symphonic Band Texts

- 1) *Essential Musicianship for Band, Ensemble Concepts*
by Eddie Green, John Benzer, & David Bertman (Hal Leonard Corporation)
- 2) *Traditions of Excellence: Technique and Musicianship*
by Bruce Pearson & Ryan Nowlin (Neil A Kjos Music Co.)
- 3) *Foundations for Superior Performance: Fingering and Trill Charts*
by Richard Williams (Neil A Kjos Music Co)
- 4) Published band literature
- 5) Supplemental fundamental material

The above items are required at all rehearsals. Failure to have these texts during practice may result in a loss of points due to lack of preparedness.

Wind Ensemble/Symphonic Band Class Fees

Yearly Fee = \$40/Student

Student fees for concert bands are set at \$40 per student. This fee will cover entrance fees for the ISSMA Organizational Festival, travel expenses, instrument maintenance costs, compensation for guest clinicians/conductors, and other miscellaneous expenses incurred throughout the school year. This fee is separate from student fees assessed by the school district (the school district fee is used strictly for music purchases), instrument rental fees (please see the “School-Owned Instruments” section for more information), and method book purchases.

Percussion Class Fees

One-Time Percussion Kit Fee	=	\$130/Student	<i>(only for students new to the class)</i>
Yearly Fee	=	\$40/Student	<i>(only for returning students)</i>

Student fees for the percussion class are set at \$130 for new students to the class and \$40 for returning students. The \$130 fee for new students purchases our required percussion kit. Payments can be spread out if necessary. This fee is paid only **once** throughout high school (only as a freshman or students in the class for the first time). This fee will provide all high-school percussionists with a stick bag and practice mallets and sticks. This fee is separate from student fees assessed by the school district (the school district fee is used strictly for music purchases), instrument rental fees (please see the “School-Owned Instruments” section for more information), and method book purchases.

Percussion Kit Includes

- IP240 Medium Marimba Mallets, 2 Pair
- IP902 Medium Soft Xlyo/Bell Mallets, 1 Pair
- GT-3 General Timpani Mallets - Medium, 1 Pair
- IPLD Lalo Davila Drum Sticks, 1 Pair
- SB3 Stick Bag, 1

Grading Policy

-for Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, and Percussion Class -

Daily Participation	50%
Playing Tests	35%
Miscellaneous Assignments	15%

Daily Participation

Daily participation starts at 100% for each student. Students receive 20 points each day for participation and proper etiquette. Infractions may result in a loss of points. Examples of infractions are as follows:

- No music/instrument/pencil
- Not having the correct equipment (reeds, valve oil, having an instrument that is broken, etc.)
- Disrupting class (excessive talking, answering questions that were not asked to that student, etc.)
- Unexcused tardy

In accordance with school policies, Mr. Ellinger reserves the right to send any student to the ISS room for the remainder of class if it is deemed a student is not holding him/herself to a high behavioral standard. Mr. Ellinger can send a student to this room with or without warning. A student will be asked to go to this room based on the seriousness of the infraction, the regularity of infractions in a given time period, and/or based on the amount of previous infractions (“repeat offenders” WILL be sent out of the room more easily than students who rarely showcase immaturity).

Daily Participation will account for 50% of the overall grade.

Playing Tests

Playing tests will be administered throughout the school year. Playing tests can occur via recorded submissions and/or in-class tests. Playing Tests will account for 35% of the overall grade.

Miscellaneous Assignments

Miscellaneous assignments will occur periodically throughout the school year. These assignments may include but are not limited to: recording analysis, listening activities, music worksheets, and eLearning assignments. Miscellaneous Assignments will account for 15% of the overall grade.

Private Instruction

One of the most effective ways to improve as a musician is through private lessons. There is no substitute for individualized instruction by an instrumental specialist. Private instructors serve as an ideal model and mentor to assist in your child’s improvement in the areas of tone, technique, and general musicianship. The small investment in them helps insure success on your instrument. If you want more information about private lessons, please contact Mr. Ellinger as soon as possible.

“What is a private music lesson?”

A professional musician who is an expert at the same instrument your child plays tutors your son and/or daughter. These occur, ideally, once per week, but can occur at different intervals if needed.

“Can lessons fit in my child’s busy schedule? What about my work schedule?”

Private lesson times can be very flexible. Some instructors are even available to teach lesson during your child’s band class!

Recommended Equipment – Winds/Percussion

This page includes required and recommended equipment for use at the high school level. It is HIGHLY RECOMMENDED for students to purchase these items. For winds, a mouthpiece is one of the most important investments a musician can make when considering the overall sound production on their instrument. Mouthpieces are like the engine in a car. A Ferrari will not perform like a Ferrari without the proper engine! An instrument cannot have a characteristic sound without a professional mouthpiece. The listed percussion equipment is considered “standard” for any serious percussionist.

The equipment we use in middle school is designed to make playing easier for beginners. It sacrifices the ability to make a great sound for being easier to create any sound. Now that we are in high school, it is time to upgrade our equipment. This starts with upgrading the mouthpiece for winds and purchasing the percussion kit for percussionists.

Suggested dealers are provided for your use. See your director for more information.

RECOMMENDED MUSIC ACCESORY DEALERS

Woodwind Brasswind	wwbw.com
Percussion Source	PercussionSource.com
Muncie Music	MuncieMusic.com

Woodwind Mouthpieces

Clarinet	D’Addario Reserve X5 or Vandoren M30
Bass Clarinet	Vandoren B45
Alto Sax	Selmer Paris S80 C* or Vandoren AL3
Tenor Sax	Vandoren TL4
Bari Sax	Yamaha 5C or Vandoren BL3

Brass Mouthpieces

Trumpet	Bach 5C or Bach 3C
French Horn	Holton Farkas MC
Trombone	Back 6.5AL or Bach 5G
Euphonium	Schilke 51D
Tuba	Conn Helleberg

Percussion Kit

- Innovative Percussion – IP240 Medium Marimba Mallets, 2 Pair
- Innovative Percussion – IP902 Medium Soft Xylo/Bell Mallets, 1 Pair
- Innovative Percussion – GT-3 General Timpani Mallets – Medium, 1 Pair
- Innovative Percussion – IPLD Lalo Davila Drum Sticks, 1 Pair
- Innovative Percussion – SB3 Stick Bag, 1

Supplemental Percussion List

- Innovative Percussion – FS-MM Mike McIntosh Marching Drum Sticks
- Innovative Percussion – WBR-1 Wire Brushes
- Innovative Percussion – IP100 Soft Marimba Mallets
- Innovative Percussion – IP200 Medium Soft Marimba Mallets
- Innovative Percussion – IP275 Medium Hard Legao Marimba Mallets
- Innovative Percussion – IP300 Medium Hard Marimba Mallets
- Innovative Percussion – IP400 Hard Marimba Mallets
- Innovative Percussion – GT-1 Genreal Timpani Mallets – Soft
- Innovative Percussion – GT-2 General Timpani Mallets – Medium Soft
- Innovative Percussion – GT-4 General Timpani Mallets – Hard
- Innovative Percussion – GT-5 General Timpani Mallets – Ultra Staccato

Wind Ensemble/Symphonic Band Concert Attire

The band will dress professionally at all performances. Failure to wear the proper attire may result in the inability to perform in a concert. In this case, the student will receive an unexcused absence unless a make-up assignment is completed. Unless noted otherwise, see below for required concert attire.

Gentlemen

- White Dress Shirt
- Black Dress Pants
- Black Socks
- Black Shoes
- Black Belt
- Black Neck Tie (bow ties are not acceptable)

Ladies

- “Concert Black”
 - A dress or dress shirt/pants are acceptable. Regardless, the entire ensemble must be black.
 - Shoulders must be covered.
 - Skirts must extend past the knee *while sitting*.
 - Black Shoes (moderate heels acceptable)

CONCERT ATTIRE GUIDELINES ARE NOT OPEN FOR DISCUSSION, ALTERATIONS, OR QUESTIONS.

Mr. Ellinger will make all final decisions regarding concert attire.

Wind Ensemble/Symphonic Band Event Calendar

- See the back page of this handbook for a removable calendar. Please post it where you can see it!
- Itineraries for all trips will be posted on our website. We will NOT hand out hard copies.
- Dates/Locations subject to change (The online Master Calendar is kept up-to-date. Please check regularly – mvhsmusic.org/bandcalendar)
- After school rehearsals are scheduled to combine winds with percussion before performances.
 - Holiday Concert, ISSMA Preview Rehearsals
 - Symphonic Band: 3:45pm – 4:45pm
 - Wind Ensemble: 5:00pm – 6:00pm
 - Extravaganza Rehearsals
 - Symphonic Band: 3:45pm – 5:15pm
 - Wind Ensemble: 4:45pm – 6:15pm

**BAND
OF
MARAUDERS
INFORMATION**

Marching Band Required Materials

Winds and percussion students must always have the materials listed below with them at *all* practices. The guard will also have required materials for all practices as set by the guard director. Consequences may be given to students without their necessary materials.

- Flip folder
- Show music
- Fundamental music
- School Song/The Star-Spangled Banner
- Miscellaneous music
- Drill on shoelace
- Hat
- Beach towel
- A mechanical pencil
- Tennis shoes with laces
- Instrument-specific materials
- 1 GALLON water jug with name clearly labeled

The above items are REQUIRED at all rehearsals. Failure to have these texts during practice may result in a loss of points due to a lack of preparedness.

Grading Policy *-for Marching Band-*

Daily Participation	50%
Playing Tests	35%
Miscellaneous Assignments	15%

Daily Participation

Daily participation starts at 100% for each student. Students receive 20 points each day for participation and proper etiquette. Any infractions will result in a loss of points. Examples of infractions are as follows:

- No music/instrument/pencil
- Not having the correct equipment (reeds, valve oil, having an instrument that is broken, etc.)
- Disrupting class (excessive talking, answering questions that were not asked to that student, etc.)
- Unexcused tardy

In accordance with school policies, Mr. Ellinger reserves the right to send any student to the ISS room for the remainder of class if it is deemed the student is not holding him/herself to a high behavioral standard. Mr. Ellinger can send a student to this room with or without warning. A student will be asked to go to this room based on the seriousness of the infraction, the regularity of infractions in a given time period, and/or based on the amount of previous infractions (“repeat offenders” WILL be sent out of the room more easily than students who rarely showcase immaturity).

Daily Participation will account for 50% of the overall grade.

Playing Tests

Playing tests will be administered throughout the season. Playing tests can occur via recorded submissions and/or in-class tests. Playing Tests will account for 35% of the overall grade.

Miscellaneous Assignments

Miscellaneous assignments will occur periodically throughout the school year. These assignments may include but are not limited to: recording analysis, listening activities, music worksheets, and eLearning assignments. Miscellaneous Assignments will account for 15% of the overall grade.

‘Band of Marauders’ Marching Band Fees

Each student is responsible for his or her fair share of the band budget. The music booster organization is a federally recognized non-profit organization and must pay bills professionally and on time. All families must pay fees by the dates listed to provide the necessary cash flow for our programs. If at any time you experience difficulty meeting the payment schedule, please contact our booster treasurer. It is important to have communication between families and the music boosters regarding payments. We will work with you on an alternative payment schedule if it will help with your financial hardships. If we have done everything possible and still have trouble collecting fees, a collection agency may be used to help with delinquent fees.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Cost Per Student</u>
Instructional Staff	\$321
Equipment/Props/Flags	\$165
Show Design	\$97.50
Bus Transportation	\$24.50
Show Entry Fees	\$17.50
Banquet	\$15
Student Show Shirts	\$9
Emergency Fund	\$5
Music Copyright Fees	\$3.60
<u>Food/Spirit</u>	<u>\$3</u>
Sub-Total	\$661.10
Student Fee	-\$475
Amount Remaining	\$186.10 <----- Earned via Fundraising (<u>about \$18,600</u>)

Families have the following fee options:

<u>Option 1 – Reduced Out-of-Pocket</u> Fee: \$250 + Fundraising the Difference	<u>Option 2 – Outright Fee</u> Fee: \$475
<u>Payment Plan</u> Deposit: \$100 (May 14) 3 Payments of \$50 (June 4, July 16, August 16)	<u>Payment Plan</u> Deposit: \$100 (May 14) 3 Payments of \$125 (June 4, July 16, August 16)

Fee-Reduction Possibilities – *Applied once per school year*

- Free Lunch: \$75 Fee Reduction (does not apply to previous seasons)
- Reduced Lunch: \$50 Fee Reduction (does not apply to previous seasons)
- Multiple Children: \$50 Fee Reduction (1st child pays full fee)

Note: For free/reduced fee reductions, the family must be enrolled in Mt. Vernon’s free/reduced lunch program. “Qualifying” for the free/reduced lunch plan but not participating will not result in a reduced marching band fee. The band director will be the only individual with a list of students on these plans. Specific financial information will NOT be released to the band director.

<u>Miscellaneous Fees</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Due Date</u>
Flip Folder/Lyre Combo	\$20 (new members only)	Applied to Band Account upon Order
Instrument Rental	\$30 (only if applicable)	Applied to Band Account upon Order
BERP	\$25 (new BRASS members only)	Applied to Band Account upon Order
Marching/Guard Shoes	\$37 (new/growing members only)	Applied to Band Account upon Order

A Word on Fundraising...

Most fundraisers will see the first few items of each sale go to the band. Items sold beyond this go to the student’s account (ie – “Profit from the first 3 hot dogs sold go to the band. Profit from hot dogs sold after the first 3 go to the student”).

ALL STUDENTS are expected to participate in the minimum amounts to sell for each fundraiser. This is necessary to pay our staff, bills, and transportation costs.

“What do students need for summer practices?”

Practices taking place over the summer are where the vast majority of our music is prepared and where we have the most time to learn and refine our marching technique. This is also a time to learn our drill and choreography (how and when we move around the field). It is critical to our success that all students bring a select set of equipment to make their process as efficient and safe as possible.

Meal Times and Information

- Dinner will take place at 4:00pm each day.
- The music boosters will provide dinner on Fridays. This may or may not be a “pitch-in” style meal.
- Food will be available for purchase on ALL full practice days (12pm-9pm)

THIS LIST IS MANDATORY

1. Flip Folder, Lyre, Music, Drill Sheets
2. *Two* Mechanical Pencils
3. One Shoelace
4. Sun Screen/Bug Spray
5. Hat (worn at all times when outside)
6. Beach Towel (an old, worn out one is fine)
7. 1 Gallon Water Jug with name clearly labeled
8. *Two* pairs of socks each day (wet socks will not prevent rehearsal participation)
9. Tennis Shoes with Laces
10. Appropriate/Smart Attire
 - a. Indiana summers are hot, chilly, humid, dry, rainy, windy, and all-around unpredictably unpleasant. Check the weather ahead of time and plan accordingly.
 - b. NO JEANS OR KHAKIS
 - i. Our visual program requires clothing that allows freedom and movement.
11. Brass Only: White Gloves and a BERP
 - a. Gloves are available from Mr. Ellinger for \$5/pair and help shield the instrument’s lacquer from our oily/sweaty skin.
 - b. A BERP is a training tool for brass players. It has a separate fee.

Students will have fun over the summer!

While most of our time will be spent practicing, we do have fun! Although hazing is **not** permitted, some pranks do pop up. The band is heavily supervised at all times. The things that happen are good-natured and done in fun (for example: The Band Leadership Team will create themed clothing days).

Rehearsal Attire Considerations

Casual/trendy clothing should not be worn at rehearsals. Athletic shorts and t-shirts are ideal. Students may wear comfortable clothing for outdoor rehearsals, *but all students are required to wear a t-shirt with sleeves while inside*. Spaghetti-strap shirts, tank tops, sleeveless tops, and so fourth are not permitted indoors.

NOTE: Parents, please understand rehearsals have been known to exceed 90-degrees in direct sunlight with high humidity and no wind. We will permit students to remain reasonably comfortable while outside in accordance with and in line with MVHS Co-Ed Athletic Program clothing guidelines. Girls may wear spaghetti-strap shirts outdoors and boys are permitted to wear “side cut-out” t-shirts. We are not encouraging a sexual atmosphere; we simply want our students to remain reasonably comfortable while outside for extended periods of time. Any severely inappropriate attire will be dealt with accordingly.

The Top 14 Things You Should Know as a Band Student

Band members share wisdom and survival tips:

14. ALWAYS be on time, which really means 10-15 minutes early.
13. When in doubt...stop talking.
12. Show respect to everyone and listen to what band veterans have to say. They're probably right.
11. Don't expect to know everything the first day. Even band veterans who have marched before still have things to learn.
10. Take things seriously, but not *too* seriously. In the end, even Mr. Ellinger will say "It is only high school marching band..."
9. We are very good at what we do because we can focus when we need to.
8. Stay well rested, fed, and hydrated.
7. Always have all necessary materials on you or close enough that you can get them quickly.
6. Know how to work, but also know how to relax. Know the two NEVER occur at the same time. EVER.
5. Keep up on your schoolwork. Take every opportunity to do your homework...on the bus, extra time in class, at appointments – do whatever it takes. It is possible to be successful at school, a job, and marching band at the same time (ask the veterans for help!).
4. You will be called on to answer something eventually. Don't be afraid. When it happens, just speak up and don't worry about being wrong.
3. You will be called out for being wrong eventually. Don't be afraid and do not respond. Do not take it personally; reflect, assess, address, and move on.
2. Always trust the instructors. Especially when you think they aren't right...they are rarely wrong.
1. You may want to quit. Don't!

The Top 10 Things You Should Know as a Band Parent

10. Your student is probably more capable than you realize.

Even if you have all the time in the world, you will start to feel like a personal servant if you don't ask your kids to take responsibility for themselves. Your child *can* make a sandwich, fill up a water jug, and set out their "stuff." If you are inclined, help them create a checklist so they remember everything they need to bring. It will be a lot of stuff, so be ready to help at first and let them go after a while.

9. Get out of the car and come join us!!!

Our rehearsals are open! Be respectful of practices going on, but come on in and see what is happening. Often, parents are there working on projects or just hanging around the band area. It is a great time to make introductions and let people know you are new to the band program and would like to get involved. The last 15-20 minutes of rehearsals are typically run-throughs of what the students know so far. PLEASE GET OUT OF YOUR CAR AND WATCH US! It's YOUR child and money after all! ☺

8. Learn to manage your time and teach your student how to manage theirs.

You *will* be busy – especially from August through October. You can use the calendar at the back of this book or utilize the online calendar, but you *must* find a way to keep track of everything. More importantly, your student will have to balance band, school, and possibly a job. You know that school is nothing compared to the hectic time management requirements of adulthood; help them learn these skills now! Many of our band members are honor students, and the time management skills they learn while with us will help them throughout life.

7. Bring cash, warm clothes, and something to sit on.

Most school functions require that you have cash on hand. Band events charge admission (typically \$5-10). Children under 5 are usually free, but you *will* need cash. Nearly all concession stands are cash-only.

6. Take care of and thank the volunteer-heavy parents.

If I could draw a picture of the perfect band mom/dad, they would have six arms, three heads, and a heart of pure gold. Remarkably, band moms/dads accomplish amazing things without these extra appendages. These are the people who dress your student, fix their hair, and wash their sweaty uniforms. They dispense wisdom, encouragement, and snacks with laughter and generosity. They are the people on the front lines who make sure your student is ready to go on the field. This is a job that deserves *much more* recognition than most can possibly understand, so please ask how you can assist.

5. Band Directors are people, too.

But they are *busy* people. They work long hours and their main focus is the kids (your band director also has a child of his own). If you have a specific concern about your child and/or the band program, set up a time to discuss it. If you need general information, band directors are not your best resource. Visit our website first. If that doesn't help, try a fellow parent or a Music Booster officer. Our booster officers are always busy and work all year to assist with everything going on in the band program. They work closely with the staff and have the same answers to most of your questions...and will probably reply to you sooner than the band director will anyway.

On Another Note: Marching band requires dedication and discipline from your student. The job of the staff is to help your student excel in band. The staff speak loudly, pointedly, and sometimes without pleasantries. When mistakes are made, especially due to inattention or a lack of effort, there are consequences. Try to relax and allow the process to work. **Nothing is ever personal. I promise.** Encourage your student to do their best, listen to staff members, and to work hard. Everyone wants to your child to be successful. You will learn this as you move through the season.

4. We can't do it without you! Volunteer and come to the booster meetings.

You will be asked to commit time, energy, donations, and the band fees to the band program. Unlike many sports programs, the 'Band of Marauders' require a great deal of parent volunteers to run smoothly. Volunteering is also the best way to get to know others. Parents can make new friends in band just as easily as students. Plan to attend as many booster meetings as you can. They are only once a month and last about an hour. It is a great time to ask questions and receive immediate answers. It is time well spent!

Regarding Volunteering: NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY! REALLY!!! Certain tasks require specific skills, but most opportunities do not. If you can pull a soda from a cooler, take tickets at a table, use scissors, or build things, you have all the experience we need! Better yet...there is so much to do, you are bound to find *something* you actually enjoy doing. You will be helping to keep band fees down and have fun in the process. Trust us...we've been there.

3. THE "Locker Room Slogan"

Your child's success or lack of success in sports/music does not indicate what kind of parent you are, but having a student who is coachable, respectful, a great teammate, mentally tough, resilient, and who tries their best IS a direct reflection of your parenting.

2. Actually use our website, MyMusicOffice, and READ YOUR EMAIL and REMIND TEXTS.

This could be said a thousand times and still somehow falls on a few deaf ears. As the season progresses, you will get multiple messages regularly. READ THEM. CHECK YOUR EMAIL DAILY. JOIN REMIND. You may not always completely understand the e-mail, but READ THEM. If you are completely lost, you can always ask a booster officer or the band director.

1. Yes, it's worth it!

All of the rides, time, and effort you put into getting your child to rehearsals are worth every second. You may not be able to appreciate this in the beginning. Your student may get discouraged at first. There is a lot of repetition, hot/sweaty days, failures, and disappointments. Then the show will begin to materialize and everything will change in your child's outlook. There will be a new energy...a new excitement. At this point they will either *love* band or plan a different activity next year. However, most of the kids love band by the end. Make them tough it out for the whole season. It will be worth it.

Coda

A Word of Warning for June and July

Rehearsals, especially in the early days, can seem a lot like boot camp. Endurance training will include running and push-ups to help the kids become physically prepared for the long rehearsals to come. For some children, this can be a very intense experience that can have them feeling frustrated and off balance. How you, the parent, handle this will likely be based on your parenting style and your child's personality. Do not over-concern yourself with their struggles, but certainly do not "blow off" what they are going through. Keep in mind there are some valuable life lessons to be learned about working with others. Talk to them, support them, and encourage them to hang in there. Only *you* really know your child and whether this program will be too much. Before you make any final decisions, talk to the band director and maybe an experienced band parent. Perhaps they can offer insight and suggestions on how to get past this hurdle.

Media Exposure

Your child will have pictures taken by news groups, our booster organization, other booster organizations, and miscellaneous parents unintentionally getting your child in a picture while trying to take a picture of their own. These pictures will find their way to news outlets and social media. This is literally impossible to prevent. Our booster group can try to prevent our own parents from taking your child's picture, but we cannot police the rest of the world. We ask that you understand this and remain calm.

Medical Appointments

Please do not schedule medical and dental appointments during band rehearsals or performances. Your child *will* miss things and *will* become frustrated when they are behind every other student (as a nasty side effect, they often blame you, the parent, to their friends and the staff for not rescheduling the appointment!). Life will be easier for all involved if we make a serious effort to schedule any and all appointments outside of rehearsal time.

Drop-Off Times

On time is late. The band must be on the field (or at their designated rehearsal space) with all necessary equipment, ready to go by the time rehearsal starts. Please plan on having your child at the school *at least* 15 minutes before the start of rehearsal. The earlier the better. Occasionally (or regularly), a section will have an earlier-than-usual start time. Your child should know about this in advance and keep you informed. It helps to keep checking in with your child because they get busy and they **do** forget from time to time.

Pick-Up Times

Pick-Up Times vary after rehearsals and depends on what your child does in the band. If a rehearsal ends at 9:00pm, this means the *rehearsal* will end at 9:00pm. Some students will have brief meetings with staff members or with their section. Students will still need to put their equipment away. Some students will be designated for that rehearsal to help the front ensemble put away their equipment in addition to their own. Please do not be disturbed or frustrated if 9:00 *really* means 9:15 or 9:30. Our rehearsals will NEVER extend past the designated end time. We will be consistent and so will your child's wrap-up procedures. As a side note, we will never end rehearsal early.

Thursday Nights

When school begins, Thursday night rehearsals will often take place in the football stadium. Although you are welcome to watch us rehearse at any time, we especially encourage you to make watching the last 20-30 minutes of our rehearsals a tradition. You will witness the show evolve throughout the season and view your child's accomplishments regularly. All we ask is that you remain quiet so we can rehearse effectively.

Mt. Vernon 'Band of Marauders' Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
5/14	MANDATORY Parent Meeting	7:00pm	MVHS Auditorium
5/14	<i>\$100 Deposit Due</i>		
5/15, 17, 22	Practice (guard only)	4:00pm – 6:30pm	MVHS Cafeteria
5/31, 6/1	June Camp	5:00pm – 9:00pm	MVHS
6/4	<i>1st Payment Due</i>		
6/4 – 6/8	June Camp	5:00pm – 9:00pm <i>(Friday: Guard 8a-12p)</i>	MVHS
7/16	<i>2nd Payment Due</i>		
7/16 – 7/20	July Camp	12:00pm – 9:00pm	MVHS
7/21	2 nd Annual 'Motorcycles for Marauders'	TBA	MVHS
7/23 – 7/27	July Camp	12:00pm – 9:00pm	MVHS
7/31	<i>Tuesday/Thursday Practices Begin (see below for times)</i>		
8/4	Practice	12:00pm – 9:00pm	MVHS
8/16	<i>Final Payment Due</i>		
8/18	Practice	12:00pm – 9:00pm	MVHS
8/24	Football vs. Marion	7:00pm	MVHS
8/25	Practice	12:00pm – 9:00pm	MVHS
8/31	Football vs. Greenfield (HOMECOMING)	7:30pm	MVHS
9/7	Football vs. New Palestine	7:30pm	MVHS
9/8	Lafayette Jefferson Invitational or Practice	TBA	TBA
9/15	Lawrence Central Invitational	All Day	Lawrence Central HS
9/19	<i>eLearning Day (No School)</i>	<i>All Day</i>	<i>HOME!!!</i>
9/22	Greenwood Invitational	All Day	Greenwood Comm. HS
9/28	Football vs. New Castle (SENIOR NIGHT)	7:30pm	MVHS
9/29	Zionsville Invitational	All Day	Zionsville Comm. HS
10/4, 10/5	Practice	12:00pm – 9:00pm	MVHS
10/6	ISSMA Invitational	All Day	TBA
10/10, 10/11	Practice	12:00pm – 9:00pm	MVHS
10/12	Practice/Football vs. Yorktown (7:30pm)	12:00pm – 9:00pm	MVHS
10/13	ISSMA Regional	All Day	TBA
10/20	Practice	12:00pm – 9:00pm	MVHS
10/27	ISSMA Semi-State	All Day	TBA
11/3	ISSMA State Finals	All Day	Lucas Oil Stadium
11/6	Marching Band Banquet (date tentative)	6:30pm	TBA

Items to Consider

- 1) Football game days will begin at 4:00pm. Students are generally dismissed by 9:30pm.
- 3) Show Days are very long. Expect to report early and be dismissed late.
- 4) Our weekly practice schedule commences on the first week of school:
 - Tuesday: 5:00pm – 9:00pm
 - Thursday: 6:00pm – 9:00pm

Wind Ensemble/Symphonic Band Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
12/4	Practice	3:45pm – 6:00pm (See below)	MVHS Band Room
12/6	Practice	3:45pm – 6:00pm (See below)	MVHS Band Room
12/8	Practice	3:45pm – 6:00pm (See below)	MVHS Band Room
12/11	Practice	3:45pm – 6:00pm (See below)	MVHS Band Room
12/13	Practice	3:45pm – 6:00pm (See below)	MVHS Auditorium
12/14	Winter Concert	7:00pm	MVHS Auditorium
1/18	Mock Solo & Ensemble	6:00pm	MVHS (opt.)
1/27	ISSMA Solo & Ensemble District	TBA	TBA (opt.)
1/29	MANDATORY Parent Mtg	7:00pm	MVHS Auditorium
2/10	ISSMA S&E District Weather Make-Up	TBA	TBA (opt.)
2/24	ISSMA Solo & Ensemble State Finals	TBA	North Central HS (opt.)
4/9	Practice	3:45pm – 6:00pm (See below)	MVHS Band Room
4/10	Practice	3:45pm – 6:00pm (See below)	MVHS Auditorium
4/12	ISSMA Preview Concert	7:00pm	MVHS Auditorium
4/13	Practice	3:45pm – 6:00pm (See below)	MVHS Band Room
4/16	Practice	3:45pm – 6:00pm (See below)	MVHS Band Room
4/18	Practice	3:45pm – 6:00pm (See below)	MVHS Band Room
4/20	Practice	3:45pm – 6:00pm (See below)	MVHS Band Room
4/20 or 4/21	ISSMA Organizational	TBA	TBA
4/30	Practice	4:00pm – 7:00pm	MVHS Band Room
5/2	Practice	4:00pm – 7:00pm	MVHS Band Room
5/4	Practice	4:00pm – 7:00pm	MVHS Band Room
5/7	Practice	4:00pm – 7:00pm	MVHS Band Room
5/9	Practice	4:00pm – 7:00pm	MVHS Band Room
5/10	Extravaganza Dress Rehearsal	4:00pm – 7:00pm	MVHS Auditorium
5/11	EXTRAVAGANZA	7:00pm	MVHS Auditorium
5/12	EXTRAVAGANZA	7:00pm	MVHS Auditorium
5/14	MANDATORY MB Parent Mtg	7:00pm	MVHS Auditorium
5/25 (tentative)	Commencement	7:00pm (tentative)	MVHS

NOTE: Commencement is REQUIRED for all non-seniors. This expectation is set by the school district.

Items to Consider

1) Dates/Locations subject to change (the online master calendar is kept up-to-date:

mvhsmusic.org/bandcalendar)

3) After school rehearsals are scheduled to combine winds with percussion before performances.

- Symphonic Band: 3:45pm – 4:45pm
- Wind Ensemble: 5:00pm – 6:00pm

“Can you take band every year and receive an Academic Honors diploma!?”

YES!!!

Sample Four-Year Plan – Core 40 w/ Academic Honors

<u>FRESHMAN</u>	<u>Quarter 1</u>	<u>Quarter 2</u>	<u>Quarter 3</u>	<u>Quarter 4</u>
<u>Class 1</u>	Band (+PE I)	Band	Band	
<u>Class 2</u>	English 9		Biology	
<u>Class 3</u>	Algebra I		Geography or World History	
<u>Class 4</u>	World Language		PE II	Elective

<u>SOPHOMORE</u>	<u>Quarter 1</u>	<u>Quarter 2</u>	<u>Quarter 3</u>	<u>Quarter 4</u>
<u>Class 1</u>	Band			
<u>Class 2</u>	English 10		Chemistry	
<u>Class 3</u>	Geometry		Health	Speech
<u>Class 4</u>	World Language		Elective	Elective

<u>JUNIOR</u>	<u>Quarter 1</u>	<u>Quarter 2</u>	<u>Quarter 3</u>	<u>Quarter 4</u>
<u>Class 1</u>	Band			
<u>Class 2</u>	English 11		Physics	
<u>Class 3</u>	Algebra II		US History	
<u>Class 4</u>	World Language		AP or Dual Credit	

<u>SENIOR</u>	<u>Quarter 1</u>	<u>Quarter 2</u>	<u>Quarter 3</u>	<u>Quarter 4</u>
<u>Class 1</u>	Band			
<u>Class 2</u>	English 12		Government	Economics
<u>Class 3</u>	Pre-Calc/Trig, Finite Math, or Prob/Stats		PFR or ARR	Elective
<u>Class 4</u>	World Language or Elective(s)		AP or Dual Credit	

This table provides a recommended list of courses to take each year. You will not necessarily take a certain class during the quarter or year shown on the table.

~ This table has been reviewed and approved by the Mt. Vernon High School Guidance Office. ~

Students can earn a Core 40 With Academic Honors diploma while enrolled in band each year and have up to 6 quarters available for additional electives!!!

See the inside front cover for an example Core 40 diploma schedule.