

Montgomery Central High School



Band Handbook

2023-2024

Vanessa Cobb
Director of Bands

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Welcome to the Montgomery Central High School Band Program! I am excited to see the new faces this year, as well as all the returning members. We are looking forward to an exciting year, and I am very glad to see you as a member of our band family!

Band is more than a series of performances developed through an ongoing rehearsal schedule. It may appear we are simply completing one event and immediately starting to prepare for the next. Although we do maintain a busy schedule, there is a higher learning taking place that will benefit your child in all of life and discipline.

We all know young people possess unlimited potential for learning, achievement, and personal success. Every individual's self-worth is based on turning potential into accomplishment, and that requires a healthy measure of discipline. Band is a metaphor of life because it is a training ground for developing a solid pattern of personal discipline habits. Band is a collection of artistic values clearly defined and ultimately achieved. This process unlocks the power of commitment, puts human will in action, develops a positive attitude, controls negative thinking, encourages success, and deters failure.

The study of music is a link between inspiration and value achievement; it is a bridge between thought and accomplishment, between ideas and results. This explains the impressive correlation between music study and academic achievement. Our band members are clearly experiencing the value of discipline driven by inspiration, enticed by desire, tempered by reason, and guided by intelligence. Band is grooming them for successful living.

Your child's participation in band is so much more than performance preparation; it reinforces the importance of self-discipline as the fundamental of healthy self-esteem, group pride, personal satisfaction, and aesthetic joy. Being in the band is teaching them how to master the circumstances of life by putting ambition and skill into action.

Thank you for your continued encouragement and support. Thank you for understanding music education is a groundwork strategy for the development of more capable minds. Thank you for demonstrating the value of persistence and discipline as we meet the challenges associated with our program's growth. Thank you for being an active parent in our band!

With warmest musical regards,

Vanessa Cobb
Director of Bands – Montgomery Central High School

"The art of music is so deep and profound that to approach it very seriously only is not enough. One must approach music with a serious rigor and, at the same time, with a great affectionate joy."

-Nadia Boulanger

THE VISION OF THE MONTGOMERY CENTRAL BAND PROGRAM:

To enhance the growth, maturity, and experience of Montgomery Central High School students through music and fellowship.

CORE VALUES

- **COMMUNITY** – The community in which we live and our own community within MCHS shapes who we are and in return, we shape it.
- **EXCELLENCE** – Employ a positive work ethic on our steady march toward excellence: students, parents, and staff included
- **ENJOYMENT** – Students should enjoy their band experience, their friends, their musical activities, and the process involved with them
- **INCLUSIVE** – Be a “big tent” organization, serving students of various abilities and backgrounds.
- **HISTORY** – Old Traditions...New Beginnings. Value and reflect on our past while being innovative in new endeavors
- **ENGAGEMENT** – The wants and needs of our student, parent, and community stakeholders are important to us
- **ADVOCACY** – Be advocates for music education, in neighborhood chats and in discussions with decision makers.
- **VERSATILITY** – Be well rounded in terms of what we do, but with a strong foundation in concert literature
- **CHALLENGE** – Create an environment that challenges students and promotes personal growth
- **STEWARDSHIP** – Be good stewards of our resources, both personal and financial

PURPOSE:

This handbook is to provide valuable information about the band program. To consistently achieve and maintain the high standards of excellence desired by this organization, members should familiarize themselves with the regulations and procedures of the band.

PHILOSOPY:

The purpose of the Montgomery Central High School Band Program is to develop within students a love and appreciation for music that will last for the rest of their lives. This is achieved through several program goals:

- By grade 12, every student will develop a sound musical technique, including soloistic playing, musically sensitive phrasing, and superior technical skill on his or her instrument.
- By grade 12, every student will be able to discern quality in a musical performance.
- By grade 12, every student will have a process through which to evaluate his or her own practice and skill level and be able to correctly identify areas in need of improvement, as well as methods to correct those areas.
- Students will develop a sense of professionalism and appreciation for their art.

Course Objectives:

- To expose students to the core repertoire of the band literature
- To expose students to a varied repertoire, including orchestra transcriptions, jazz, chamber music, and modern music.
- To teach and reinforce exemplary performance fundamentals on instruments
- To develop strong practice habits
- To promote proficiency in the personal care, background, repertoire, and tuning tendencies for their respective instruments
- To provide opportunities for success as musicians, through concerts, festivals, honor bands, and solo/ensemble
- To participate in school-spirit or community related events, including pep-rallies, parades, or festivals
- To establish a culture of excellence by exceeding our own expectations every day
- To develop life skills, such as discipline, leadership, and teamwork
- To create an enjoyable and memorable experience
- To prepare students for musical experiences after high school graduation

Communication Information:

- **Facebook:** Search for the Montgomery Central Band Program
- **Website:** www.bandsatMCHS.weebly.com
- **Instagram:** @MCHSBANDS
- **Band APP:**



- **Google Classroom:** codes will be sent home with students

Classroom Expectations:

1. We will come to class on time, with all appropriate materials.
2. We will not bring food, drink, or gum into this classroom. (Water is acceptable)
3. We will respect our fellow musicians.
4. We will respect the property of the band, school, teachers, and fellow students.
5. We will represent ourselves, our band, our school, and our community in a manner that is of the highest professionalism, including being dedicated with our attendance.

Any action not explicitly stated in this handbook that occurs under the supervision of the Montgomery Central High School Band towards students, instructors, the band, or community that could be considered dangerous or illegal is unacceptable (See Student Handbook). If a behavior is observed from a student that meets the criteria stated above, the director reserves the right for immediate disciplinary action to be taken, which can include, but is not limited to:

- Parent/Guardian Contact and direct removal from event / activity
- Principal notification
- Immediate expulsion / exclusion from any and all band activities

Grades:

Grades in band class will be comprised of the following:

- Participation
- Playing Tests
- Practice Logs
- Written Assignments
- Listening Assignments
- Vocabulary Quizzes
- Rehearsal Attendance

Daily Participation:

Daily participation grades are given (10 points per day) and our 20% of the overall grade. Students must have their instrument, supplies for the instrument like reeds, mouthpiece, oil/grease, a pencil, their music book, and any sheet music. Students must also fully engage during class. Students who talk or disrupt the class will lose their participation points for the day. Students who are prepared for class and participate in a positive manner will receive these points. Students unprepared or not participating in a positive manner will lose these points.

Playing Assessments:

Students will be expected to demonstrate their understanding of what is taught in class by performing on their instruments. These tests will take place in google classroom. Students will be shown how to complete a playing assessment and submit it for a grade. Most playing assessments will occur outside of class time (i.e. complete at home). Playing tests account for 50% of the final band grade. Each student will have a chance to retest. It is the student's responsibility to ask for a second chance. Some written tests are taken in band and count as a playing test score. Playing tests will be recorded in Power School. It is the responsibility of the student to record the test and submit to the teacher on time. Concert performances and rehearsals count as a playing grade.

Homework:

Band homework is individual practice on the instrument. Each student is expected to practice their instrument at home. This unguided practice is necessary to become a good performer. Students will complete a practice journal to be signed by a parent for a grade each week.

They are graded as follows:

3 hours per week = 100%

2 hours and 55 minutes = 99%

2 hours and 50 minutes = 98%

2 hours and 45 minutes = 98%

2 hours and 40 minutes = 97%

2 hours and 35 minutes = 97%

2 hours and 30 minutes = 96%

2 hours and 25 minutes = 95%

2 hours and 20 minutes = 94%

2 hours and 15 minutes = 94%

2 hours and 10 minutes = 93%

2 hours and 5 minutes = 93%

2 hours and 0 minutes = 92%

1 hour and 55 minutes = 91%

1 hour and 50 minutes = 90%

1 hour and 45 minutes = 90%

1 hour and 40 minutes = 89%

1 hour and 35 minutes = 89%

1 hour and 30 minutes = 88%

1 hour and 25 minutes = 87%

1 hour and 20 minutes = 86%

1 hour and 15 minutes = 85%

1 hour and 10 minutes = 84%

1 hour and 5 minutes = 83%

1 hour and 0 minutes = 82%

55 minutes = 82%

50 minutes = 80%

45 minutes = 79%

40 minutes = 78%

35 minutes = 77%

30 minutes = 76%

Less than 30 minutes of total practice, or the practice journal that is incomplete = 65%.

Failure to turn in the google form will result in a grade of 0%.

Required Materials:

- A fully functioning instrument
 - **School owned instruments will be checked out and signed out for each student**
- Music Folder
- Music (provided by Mrs. Cobb)
- Instrument Cleaning Supplies (see below)

Instrument Specific Supplies:

Woodwinds:

- Cork Grease
- Cleaning Cloth
- Reeds (Can be ordered through AMRO or on your own) – No plastic reeds
 - Clarinet – Vandoren Reed 3
 - Saxophone – Rico Reserve 3 OR Vandoren 3
 - Oboe and Bassoon: handmade reeds are the best (see Mrs. Cobb for suggestions)

NOTE: The band director is not responsible for supplying reeds.

Brass:

- Valve Oil
- Slide Grease
- Rotor Oil (Horns Only)
- Cleaning Cloth (No Jewel Cloths)
- Mouthpiece (See Mrs. Cobb if unsure about what size)

Percussion:

- Concert Snare Sticks (Vic Firth or Innovative Percussion)
- 1-2 pair General Use Mallets (IP300's are fine)
- 1 pair of timpani mallets
- Your Own Mallet Bag

*****AMRO has an optional educational kit (\$60) which includes everything you will need here. (More Cost Effective)

- Steve Weiss Stick Pack No. 1
- Innovative Percussion FP2 – Intermediate Mallet Pack
- Vic Firth EP2 – Intermediate Education Pack

Performances/Rehearsals/Attendance Policy:

Parents / Guardians will be notified well in advance on any performance or trip dates (see fall calendar at end of this handbook). Dates and times are subject to change. We will make every effort possible to give ample notification.

If there is a significant event (wedding, religious ceremony, etc.) scheduled on the same date of a performance or trip, the director must be notified **AT LEAST TWO WEEKS** ahead of the event in question. Family emergencies (funerals, significant sickness, and medical emergencies) unfortunately do happen, and if such a situation does occur, the parent/guardian may notify the director. The student should bring in documentation, if applicable, for excusal from grade. Performances and rehearsals are expected for all students in the Montgomery Central Band Program and will be part of the band grade. Students will be expected to make up any performance or rehearsal in the form of a playing assignment (it will be easier to show up and perform/rehearse!). Doctor’s notes, funeral announcements, and wedding announcements will be allowed to excuse the student from the playing assignment for a missed rehearsal or performance. All other excuses will result in the student completing the playing assignment. Students will have the entirety of the nine weeks to make up the missed performance or rehearsal. We simply cannot do what we do together as a group if people are missing all the time. We are a better program when attendance is high. This policy is both for concert and marching band.

All acceptable absences must be turned in, in writing to Mrs. Cobb.

<u>Acceptable Absences</u>	<u>Unacceptable Absences</u>
Wedding Family Death Severe Illness (Doctor’s Note Required) Court Date	“I forgot” or “I did not know” School Work (Your Responsibility) A job that conflicts with schedule Babysitting other siblings Other clubs (Unless approved by Mrs. Cobb) Doctor’s Appointments – Please use Wednesday or a NON-MARCHING BAND DAY (marching band days are Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and some Saturdays – see fall calendar

EXCESSIVE ABSENCE POLICY:

Please let Mrs. Cobb know in advance of any absences. Excessive absences, with limited notice or excuse, will result in the removal from the marching band, as this is a co-curricular activity.

Marching Band Rehearsal/Performance Schedule:

- **TUESDAY and THURSDAY** – 2:30PM – 5:00 PM
 - Note: If school is cancelled, unless otherwise announced, there is no rehearsal.
Sectionals - Sectionals will be announced one week in advance. Director must approve a sectional and sectionals will take place on Tuesdays from 5:00PM – 6:00 PM.
- **FRIDAY** – Football Games (see fall calendar at end of handbook)
- **SATURDAY** – Competitions (see fall calendar at end of handbook)

Concert Band Rehearsal/Performance Schedule:

- **Tuesday and Thursdays** – 2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. at the completion of the marching band season and throughout the entire spring semester. ALL STUDENTS IN A BAND CLASS ARE A PART OF THE CONCERT BAND (this does not include color guard).
- **Winter and Spring Concerts** (see fall calendar for winter concert date, spring calendar will be sent home by fall break).

BEHAVIOR AND PARTICIPATION EXPECTATIONS:

- **Marching Band Rehearsal Attire** - tennis shoes, appropriate clothing (school dress code applies). Leadership will check before rehearsal. You will have time to change before rehearsal after school. NO SANDALS or FLIP FLOPS (This is a safety concern)
- **MATERIALS** - Instrument, pencil, music, flip folder, flag, rifle, etc. Everyone is responsible for their own equipment. Any damaged equipment must be fixed or addressed before rehearsal.
- **BEHAVIOR** - Your best. Every day. No exceptions. Disruptive or Negative behavior will not be tolerated.

Concert Band Performance Attire:

Concert, Community Concert Events – Concert Black (All CMCSS Dress Code Policies Apply)

- **Gentlemen** – black dress shirt, black slacks, black shoes, black socks, belt
 - A plain black tie may be worn
- **Ladies** – Floor length black dress pants, closed toe black dress shoes and at least a ¾ black dress blouse or shirt
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Marching Band Performance Attire:

- School issued marching band uniform, black marching band specific shoes, long black socks, band shirt
- Pep rallies: band shirt and jeans

Honor Bands:

Students are highly encouraged to audition for honor bands throughout the year. These auditions are designed to motivate students to be the best that they can be and allow for students to represent Montgomery Central High School in some of the best performing ensembles in the state.

Students may only audition if they are in good academic standing in school and with the band program. **All honor band auditions require a proficiency hearing with Mrs. Cobb.** There will be several after-school help days to help students prepare, but ultimately, the preparation lies in the hands of the students themselves. Students who participate in honor bands throughout their high school career usually receive college scholarships!

- **Mid-State (MTSBOA)** – Audition is in late Fall, Honor Band in January. Music is passed out in August. Students must pass proficiency hearing with Mrs. Cobb before auditioning. Must know all twelve major scales, be able to sight read, and prepare etudes. The audition fee is \$10.00.
- **All-State (TMEA)** – Audition is based on Mid-State results. Must place at top of section in Mid-State to make All-State. This event happens in April in Nashville, TN.
- **Gateway Honor Band (GMA)**– Hosted by the Gateway Music Association (Local) – Open to 9-12 graders to audition. Music is passed out in Fall. Must know all twelve major scales, be able to sight read, and prepare etudes. Audition fee is \$10.00
- **APSU Governor’s Honor Band** – Hosted by Austin Peay State University. Open to 9-12 graders to apply, but preference is given to upperclassmen. There is a fee to apply and a participation fee if chosen.

EQUIPMENT:

- **MUSIC**
All music must be memorized and prepared before rehearsals. This responsibility falls on the student. Flip books are to only be used in rehearsal. Leadership will verify. Music must be kept up with and treated as school equipment.
- **SCHOOL INSTRUMENTS**
School instruments will be provided and checked out for certain sections (Drum line, Front Ensemble, and Certain Winds). This equipment must be maintained and taken care of - it is the student’s responsibility to report any damage or issues that occur while in their possession. Students will be held responsible for repairs if damage was the result of negligent behavior.

- **UNIFORM**

A uniform will be provided by the band program. It will not be taken home or checked out and will remain at the school. Wearing the MCHS Band uniform is a privilege, and while wearing it, you are to represent the MCHS Band, Montgomery Central High School, and the school system with the upmost professionalism. It is a symbol of pride for this organization, which has always been the model for behavior at MCHS. We will continue that tradition. The uniform consists of the show shirt, coat, jacket, black gloves, and black marching band shoes. **STUDENTS MUST HAVE LONG BLACK SOCKS.**

SCHOOL FACILITIES:

All school rules apply when using the school facilities. We will leave everything like we found it, every time. This includes our rehearsal space. Please always keep the band room doors closed. **Help keep the band room clean by not leaving personal belongings laying around.**

- **BAND INSTRUMENT LOCKERS**

The band lockers are available for students to use throughout the season and during regular school. They will be assigned based on instrument size. These lockers are school property and can be searched at any time by school officials. The lockers are only used for instrument storage, music, or rehearsal materials. They are not to be used for storage of other unnecessary items or personal belongings. **PLEASE PUT YOUR INSTRUMENT IN ITS CASE AND THEN IN YOUR LOCKER AT THE CONCLUSION OF EVERY REHEARSAL.**

- **MRS. COBB'S OFFICE**

The band room office is off limits, unless with appropriate permission and supervision from Mrs. Cobb or staff. No student is to be in the office by themselves. Students that use the office for student work with permission (librarian, meetings, etc.) must clean up after themselves.

SCHOOL TRIPS:

You are ambassadors for MCHS.

1. Students are to ride the same bus departing and returning. Students will be assigned bus seating. If there is a problem, chaperones may assign seats. No student is to change the final bus list without director permission.
2. Students are to always follow all bus safety rules.
3. Students are not to leave the group without notifying a chaperone or staff member.
4. Students may return from the event other than on the band busses under circumstances that have been approved by the director and if BOTH the following provisions are met:

- a. Parents of the students provide written permission for their child to ride home with another parent. **NO STUDENT WILL LEAVE WITH ANOTHER STUDENT** due to liability.
- b. The Band Director must physically see the student leaving with their parent taking them home. There can be no exception to this rule, which is made for the safety and protection of each student and to release liability of the Band Directors, staff, and chaperones.

Students going on any trip must have a signed medical release form and must travel with the group to the event.

LOADING AND UNLOADING:

All students are expected to help load and unload the band trailer. It is also YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to get your instrument to the trailer or bus along with any supplies you may need, like mallets/sticks, mouthpieces, etc. Do not depend on anyone else to get it to the trailer for you. Once we return to the school, everyone will help unload equipment into the school and put it away properly before being dismissed.

FOOTBALL GAMES (Marching Band):

Students should report at the designated time and have all materials needed: shoes, black socks, gloves, music, instrument, etc. The band will warm up in the band room and then march to the stadium.

- **PREGAME**

We perform the national anthem at all home games. We also perform our fight song and entertain the crowd. We are excited to be a part of the tradition of MCHS football, and we will show that pride and hype in our performance!

- **IN THE STANDS**

Students should conduct themselves in an upstanding manner. Each section will sit together, NO EXCEPTIONS. Football games should be fun and relaxed, but students must be attentive to what is going on in the game. No students shall play during the game unless instructed by the director. The band will have third quarter free to visit with family / friends and get concessions. Students will be allowed to remove their coat during the break or at other times when instructed, if they are wearing the MCHS Band show shirt for 2023 underneath. Students will be given a break at halftime but should be back with 1:00 left on the clock in the stands. Students should not eat food or drinks other than water in the stands. Any student not back in time will lose their break for the next game. Only band members and chaperones are allowed to sit with the band. No boyfriends/girlfriends/family.

REMEMBER: We are at the game to support our team and be a part of the spirit and culture of the event.

- **HALFTIME**

We will perform at half-time during the game unless there's a special ceremony or conflict that evening.

COMPETITIONS (Marching Band):

Competitions will take place on Saturdays, and students are expected to keep ALL DAY on those Saturdays free. A schedule of that Saturday will be released by Monday that week detailing the itinerary for the performance day.

1. We arrive and the loading crew and staff will get off the bus and the band will remain seated and silent until instructed otherwise.
2. Once the equipment has been unloaded, students will grab their uniforms and travel to the changing rooms. In extenuating circumstances, we may have to ride in half uniform without jackets, depending on the schedule. Under the uniform, students are expected to wear shorts and their show shirt.
3. Once dressed, students will grab instruments and we will proceed to warm-up. Color Guard will do the same. After warm-up, students will proceed as a unit to the waiting area.
4. After the performance, students return to the busses and wait for further instructions on changing, loading, etc.
5. Once all equipment is loaded, students and staff will proceed to the stands. Students may eat concessions at their leisure during this time, but they can only come and go during breaks between performances!
6. After the competition is over, there are awards. Representatives will return to the field in uniform.
7. After the band arrives back to the band room, no one is dismissed until the equipment is unloaded and put away, the band room is clean, and the final meeting / dismissal has taken place.

PARADES:

These are much like football games and competitions.

1. We will go to the parade location as a unit on buses. We will load and unload at the school.
2. Dress appropriately so that you may put your uniform on in public.
3. Once again, this is a public appearance and it is imperative that we carry ourselves with pride and dignity as an MCHS ambassador.
4. Once the parade has concluded, we will follow the same procedures as football games and contests for putting equipment away and dismissing.
5. Parents may not take students with them before returning to the school, unless approved by the director.

POOR WEATHER CONDITIONS:

Unfortunately, there are times where weather gets in the way of our performance. Poor weather is a factor we must live with.

1. Students must always plan to be outside regardless of weather conditions at football games, contests, and rehearsals. The decision to remain outside will be made by directors, in accordance with school / district policies.
2. We will not remain outside in excessive heat indexes at or above 104°F and students will be hydrated effectively if the weather is hot.
3. We will NEVER march when lightning is present or when we are under a severe storm warning.

There may be a time when a competition or game performance is called due to rain. The director will contact students and parents through all electronic communication methods if the decision to cancel a trip or performance results from poor weather.

**MCHS Band Handbook Contract
2023-2024**

Please sign and return for a grade.

I certify that I have read and understand this document and are aware of all dates, both rehearsals and performances for the band program. I will ensure my child attends both rehearsals and performances on the fall calendar and any performances that may be added (with the knowledge that Mrs. Cobb will try her best to give ample notification of any changes).

- Follow all classroom expectations and procedures (see *Classroom Expectations*). _____
- Bring all required materials to class each day, including my Instrument and maintenance supplies (Oil, Reeds, etc.) (see *Required Materials*) _____
- Be held responsible for any damage that occurs to a school owned instrument (see *Required Materials*) _____
- Take note of all performance dates listed above or on the Band Calendar (website) and will give ample notice if I am to miss a performance for whatever reason. I also note that if I miss a performance, I will be held responsible for an alternative assignment for my grade. _____
- Wear the correct performance attire to concerts (see *Performance Attire*). _____
- Follow all policies and procedures on a school trip (see *School Trips*). _____
- Follow all procedures and guidelines for honor band auditions (see *Honor Bands*). _____

Student Name (Print): _____

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent Name (Print): _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

Home Phone Number: _____

Parent Email Address: _____