

Milford High School

**Spartan
Band
Handbook**

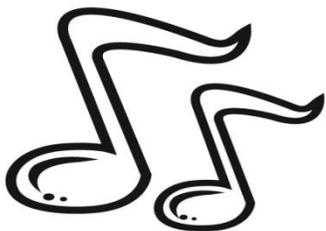


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Parent Letter

Dear Parent,

Your child has chosen to be involved in an enjoyable and rewarding experience! It will be fun, challenging, and educational. As a member of the band students are in a social peer group. Friendships and memories will be made that last for a lifetime. Your child will have experiences which might not be possible without the band.

The success your child enjoys in the band is largely due to your support as a parent! *Regularly encourage your child to practice. See to it that they arrive to rehearsals and performances on time. Help provide them with the best instrument you are able. If they are motivated to take private lessons, help make it happen. Most importantly, be there when they perform! YOU are their most important audience. YOU are the ones they look for in the crowd. It means more to them than they want you to know!*

We have an excellent Music Booster organization. Your help in supporting this organization is very much appreciated. Involvement will also help you receive information, aid in decision making, and allow you to get to know some other quality people who like to have a hand in helping make their children's experience more enriching.

Student Letter

Dear Student,

Welcome to the Milord High School Spartan Band Program! My staff and I are excited that you have decided to be a part of what promises to be an exciting year. With your help, we will continue our musical tradition of excellence, pride, spirit and class.

Enclosed you will find a lot of information that should answer most of your questions regarding the coming year's activities. I realize that band requires a commitment of your time outside of the regular school day, especially at the beginning of the year, but you will get out of it what YOU put into it. I want you to produce something that you will feel proud of, and make memories that will last a lifetime! I have high expectations of my students, not only in terms of performance, but also in regards to their behavior and the choices they make on a daily basis. I want my students to enjoy their time with the band, and at the same time create quality performances with a high level of musicality and showmanship. In order to accomplish this, we find times to be strictly disciplined and self-controlled, and other times to have fun and be a little crazy! It is in knowing the distinction between the two where we create the environment to have fun and be successful.

The code of conduct for the Spartan Band program is outlined in this manual. Our rules and policies are carefully designed to promote a workable and educational environment, and are very important to the success of the organization. The music calendar is now available online at spartanmusicnh.com and lists the dates of rehearsals and performances; **It is important that you mark these on your calendar NOW.** It is vital that you attend every commitment, as every absence slows the progress of the group. Here's to a great year filled with not only the traditions of our past, but also the promise of the future.

Musically, Mr. Smith

SPARTAN BAND TRIVIA

The Spartan Band was founded in 1968 with the opening of Milford Area High School (MASH). In 1992 MASH was broken up into two separate schools, Souhegan and Milford High. These are some of the past directors:

1976 – 1982	Arthur Gilman
1982 – 1997	James Sandahl
1997 – 1999	Susan Epstein
1999 – 2003	Amy Morse
2003 – 2007	Carrie Cormier
2007 – Present	Bradley Smith

The official Milford Fight Song is *On Wisconsin* though the pop-tune *Final Countdown* has served as an interim fight song for the past several school years. In years past the Spartan Band has been as large as 110 and as small as 40. This year we have 77 members. With recent visits to Boston, NYC, Washington D.C., Virginia Beach, France, Spain and Italy under our belts, we are excited about continuing our Milford band tradition of travel and performance with another exciting destination this year.

SPARTAN MARCHING BAND SHOW HISTORY

The Spartan Marching Band has had a variety of halftime show themes throughout the years. We are trying to go back even further in history. If you have any information that can help, please contact Mr. Smith.

2018 Disney
2017 *SCAN*
2016 Star Wars: Episode VII - The Force Awakens
2015 Mangione Magic
2014 The Hero Within-The Music of Hans Zimmer
2013 Frost
2012 Beyond 2012
2011 The Planets
2010 Led Zeppelin
2009 The Dragon and the Dove "47 Ronin"
2008 The Music of "Earth, Wind, and Fire"
2007 Rockin' Back
2006 Fun in the Sun
2005 Epic
2004 At the Movies
2003 Classic Rock
2002 The Wizard of Oz
2001 The Music of "The Beatles"

My efforts to go back further in history and find even more accurate information are ongoing. Any information you have to contribute to this page is welcome. Please email me at bradley.smith@milfordk12.org

Everything you wanted to know about band camp...and more!!

Band Camp is the most important marching activity of the year. Not only do we learn a lot of important skills, but we also bond as a team. We learn a great deal during camp, including how to march and portions of our field show. It is **ESSENTIAL** that everyone is there. If for some reason there is a conflict, you must notify Mr. Smith immediately.

Mr. Smith's Top Ten Things to Remember About Band Camp:

10) Wear cool, comfortable, easy-to-move-in clothes (light colors are best). Wear tennis shoes with socks. **DO NOT** wear sandals or flip-flops. **ALL CLOTHING MUST COMPLY WITH THE MHS DRESS CODE.** This means no spaghetti straps!

9) Hats and sunglasses are helpful in keeping cool.

8) Please wear sunscreen and reapply on the breaks if necessary. It takes as little as 5 minutes to sunburn!

7) Stay hydrated. Have a water bottle available all of the time – but remember to take care of it when you're finished. Also remember to drink water in the evening before going to bed.

6) Bring a lyre and flip folder for your instrument. These are available at most music stores. You can't perform without them.

5) Be yourself, be open, and make an effort to meet a new person.

4) Bring a pencil to all music rehearsals (this includes sectionals). Often times we must make cuts or changes to the music and you will need to mark these in the music.

3) Please bring deodorant and **never be afraid to REAPPLY!** This will allow you to keep the new friends you've just made at camp!

2) **EAT BREAKFAST, LUNCH, and DINNER EVERY DAY.** Do not skip a meal. You will be way too active at camp to afford that.

1) Make the most out of the experience. A successful Band Camp will create a successful marching season. Our success depends on the level of commitment from individual band members.

CALL TIME

In an attempt to make things even more time efficient we will be announcing all events in terms of "Call Time." It is extremely important that all members of the marching band and color guard have a clear understanding of "Call Time." Members will be given a Call Time for every event the band participates in. This is the time when members must be dressed, have their equipment ready, and be at a pre-assigned location for attendance. **It is recommended that members arrive early so that any unplanned problems can be taken care of prior to Call Time.** Please check the official band calendar online or in the classroom for all Call Times, and update these times if they change throughout the season. There will also be Call Times for band concerts, festivals, and just about everything the band participates in.

Remember my favorite saying about punctuality and you will be just fine!

Question 1.)

To be early is to be on time, to be on time is to be late, to be late is to be _____.

- a. In Trouble b. Forgotten c. Left Behind d. All of the Above

MARCHING REHEARSALS

Marching rehearsals this year will occur on Wednesdays and some Fridays immediately after school from 2:30-5:30 or in the evening from 4:00-7:00pm. Please plan on arriving at least 15 minutes early so you have time to walk with all your equipment from the Music Room to the stadium. Students who play pit percussion may need to plan even more extra time due to the amount of equipment you need at rehearsal. Most new drill will be learned at these after school rehearsals, so if you are absent, you might not be permitted to march the show during that particular week until you are caught up.

UNIFORMS

Our marching uniform consists of pants, jacket, hat, plume, hat box, gauntlets, white gloves, black socks, black marching shoes, and your band t-shirt. The pants, jacket, hat, plume, hat box, and gauntlets are provided by the school.

You will be responsible for purchasing gloves (\$2/3 each), a pair of full length black socks, a band t-shirt (\$12 each), and marching shoes (\$40 each). Most of these items will be available to order through the music boosters at the beginning of the year. If any part of the marching uniform is lost or damaged, it must be paid for immediately. You are responsible for all parts of the uniform from the minute it is checked out to you until you turn it in.

Uniforms will be dry cleaned three to four times during the semester, which is included in the uniform rental fee. You will be responsible for washing your gloves on a weekly basis. Only bleached white gloves are acceptable.

Approximate Replacement Costs for Lost or Damaged Uniform Parts:

Pants	\$80	Hanger	\$10
Coat	\$150	Gauntlets	\$40
Hat and Box	\$60	Uniform Bag	\$10
Plume	\$15	Vestee	\$60

Uniform Guidelines

This year's Band T-Shirt must be worn under the uniform at all times. There will be no exceptions to this policy. Old band shirts will not count as part of your band uniform. Members who are not wearing their Band T-Shirt will not be issued a uniform and will not be allowed to perform with the band and/or will receive a reduction in their performance grade.

It is an honor to wear the Spartan Marching Band uniform. Wear it with pride. If the members of the band do not respect their uniform, nobody else will either. To ensure that the uniform remains an item of respect, the following guidelines have been established:

- The uniform is to be worn for band performances only. Sorry it won't be issued to you as a Halloween costume this year...start working on another plan now.
- Do not allow people to see you in an incomplete uniform. This looks sloppy, and gives others a bad impression of the band. While on the bus, you may remove your jacket and hat to stay cool, but you must be fully dressed when you exit the bus.
- Do not run around or engage in horseplay while in uniform. The uniform can tear if mistreated. Plus you look like a fool.
- Do not eat or drink in uniform. Plain WATER IS ALLOWED.
- Jewelry (including watches) is not to be worn while in uniform. This is for uniformity.
- Facial make-up must not be worn while in uniform. Sweat sometimes causes make-up to run and stain the uniform. Nail polish must also be removed. **DO NOT GET FANCY NAILS DONE DURING MARCHING SEASON!** It's costly and we'll still make you take it off.
- When wearing the hat, long hair is to be **french braided**. This is for uniformity. GUYS TOO! There are always band parents who will be helping do hair prior to performances.
- Pants are to be hemmed and worn so that the bottom of the pant leg is at ankle length. Most of our pants are designed with suspenders so that we can look uniform. We know you don't wear your regular pants this way. Needless to say, these aren't your regular pants, so do what we tell you.
- Obscene language or gestures are inappropriate while in uniform because you are immediately identified as a band member. Public display of affection (PDA) is also not appropriate. Please help us maintain our tradition of **ALWAYS ACTING WITH CLASS!**

ABSENCES

Band is an activity that requires commitment and planning. We plan rehearsals to minimize the time requirement and maximize the productivity of the band. **When any person is absent from a rehearsal, whether it be for legitimate reasons or not, it affects the group in many ways.** In marching band, when a student is gone from rehearsal, it creates “holes” in the marching drill, and it is much more difficult for the others to march. Then, when the student returns to the next rehearsal it creates tension and confusion on the field when we need to slow down rehearsal to re-teach the parts that students have missed due to their absences. Absences can often be avoided by considering the following:

1. Schedule doctor and dentist appointments with your band schedule in hand.
2. Sit down with all schedules at the beginning of the year, including sports, family, school, and the calendar included in this handbook. Work out conflicts at the beginning of the year.
3. Discuss ALL conflicts with all parties involved as soon as they are noticed. Many students are nervous to discuss conflicts because they feel they are letting people down. You let people down only when you don't plan ahead and don't handle the conflicts early.
4. Consider all commitments as IMPORTANT. In life, it is great to be involved in many things, but be careful not to sacrifice your commitment to one activity for another. If you find yourself doing that, you should reconsider your activity level.
5. Family is your most important commitment. Most of the time it is also your most flexible - especially with advance notice. Please schedule family activities with your commitments in mind.

Even the most responsible students find themselves in the predicament where a scheduling conflict can't be avoided. When you find that you have a conflict, follow these guidelines:

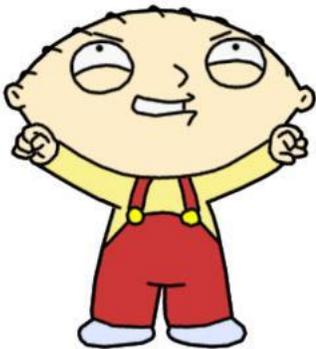
1. Fill out an Absence Notification Form ASAP.
2. Assess the relative importance of each activity. Performances are more important than rehearsals just as in sports, games are more important than practices.
3. Consider compromises. It is always better to “give and take” with both conflicting activities. Is it possible to do part of each activity rather than missing one to go to another? Also, it shows responsibility toward your commitments to compromise. Of course, some things are more difficult, and sometimes it can be impossible to compromise.
4. Consider the consequences and communicate those to all parties involved. Is missing the practice going to mean you won't be able to play in the next game? Will missing the rehearsal lower your grade? Are you willing to live with those consequences?
5. Realize that job commitments are NOT considered excusable. Every job conflict I have ever dealt with has been the result of students not planning ahead by giving their boss the calendar. However, if your boss schedules you to work during a band commitment, let Mr. Smith help you discuss the problem with your boss. There has never been a case where that process has not worked out for all parties involved!
6. Excused absences may need to be made up. Don't assume that once you have an excused absence the matter is resolved. It is the responsibility of the student to discuss make-up work with Mr. Smith and complete the work in a timely manner. Information on make-up assignments may be obtained by meeting with Mr. Smith.
7. Unexcused absences may not be made up. Unexcused absences will have a negative impact on your grade, may cost you performance time, and in extreme cases could lead to your dismissal from the band.

SCHOOL CONFLICTS

If you're like most students at Milford, you're probably very involved. Here's what you should do if something comes up that looks like it will conflict with a band activity.

1. Students involved in other MHS activities who find they have a time conflict with rehearsals or performances must notify Mr. Smith in writing at least two weeks prior to the conflict. Please use the absence notification form found in the classroom or on the class website. You have your entire band calendar now. LOOK AT IT and compare it to your other schedules. You should have the coach/advisor of the other activity provide a note to me that says you will be missing the band activity, and that the other event truly is required.
2. Students are always to attend the more important activity (see the chart on this page for help).
3. A conflict occurs when two activities actually overlap so that it is IMPOSSIBLE (not just inconvenient) for the student to attend both activities. Students must make every effort to fulfill the requirements of all activities in which they choose to participate. If you find that it is too hard to work around your conflicts, you might want to reconsider your activity level.
4. A student who is absent from a band activity due to a MHS conflict but who has NOT discussed the conflict in advance with Mr. Smith will be counted unexcused and will receive no credit towards the grade for the rehearsal or performance. If you have been excused, it will not count against your grade, but you will need to make up the assignment. Information on make-up assignments may be found on the Excused Absence Form.

CONFLICT AVOIDANCE CHART



WHEN THESE ACTIVITIES OVERLAP:

Music Practice/Sports Game
Music Performance/Sports Practice
Music Practice/Sports Practice
Music Performance/Sports Game
Club Activity/Music Rehearsal or Performance

STUDENTS SHOULD ATTEND:

Sports Game
Music Performance
Split time evenly with each group
Student Choice (Speak to Mr. S)
Mr. Smith will help you decide

TARDIES, BAND LOCKERS, and CELL PHONES

Because marching band is set up a little differently than a typical class period, tardies will be dealt with in the following manner:

If you are late to any marching band rehearsal you must check in with the attendance taker. It is your responsibility to check-in at each event. If you don't check in it is very likely your attendance will be reported as an absence. This is not easy to fix later on. Tardies to marching band rehearsals will be handled in the following manner:

1st & 2nd TARDY: 25% of your points for that rehearsal will be lost and a comparable time consequence will be applied (laps, staying after, etc.)

3rd TARDY: Same as above and a call home with a potential loss of performance privilege.

4th TARDY: Same as third and a referral to the vice principal with a potential removal from marching band

We are privileged to have lockers present in the music room to store our instruments. In order to maintain this privilege and help make this another good year you can follow these simple rules:

1. **USE THE LOCKER THAT HAS BEEN ASSIGNED TO YOU.** Your locker privileges may be removed if your things are found in a locker that is not assigned to you. KEEP YOUR LOCKER LOCKED WHEN YOU ARE AWAY FROM IT. Items have been stolen before and Mr. Smith and the school cannot be held responsible if something disappears from your locker, whether it's locked or not.
2. **DO NOT STORE ANY TYPE OF FOOD OR BEVERAGE IN YOUR LOCKER.** This includes uneaten and half-eaten food. Do not leave any cans, bottles, or wrappers in your locker. We don't want ants, roaches or mice taking up residence!
3. **INSTRUMENTS MUST BE KEPT INSIDE LOCKERS.** Locker checks will be performed to make sure instruments have been put away. Make sure instruments are put away inside the case. Instruments are easily damaged when left out inside a locker.
4. **It is recommended that you not keep anything but band-related items in your band locker.** However, we understand that this is not always convenient. Please realize that we cannot be held responsible for anything that goes missing from your band locker.
5. If you lose or misplace your school issued lock you will be responsible for immediately replacing it. See Mr. Smith right away if your lock is missing.
6. **DO NOT LEAVE TRASH ON THE FLOOR.** This includes paper, reeds, and any other trash that you can think of. There are trash cans located near the entrance to the music room.
7. **MR. SMITH WILL CONDUCT RANDOM LOCKER CHECKS.** If something is found that breaks the above rules when your locker is checked you will immediately lose locker privileges for the year. If the lockers are misused or left trashed on a regular basis an entire section or the whole band may lose locker privileges until Mr. Smith wants to give them back.

Cell phones may not be used during any rehearsal or performance, and will not be tolerated. Turn them off. Put them away. You may always use them on breaks.

CONDUCT AT FOOTBALL GAMES

It is our tradition that we always take the high road and act with class at all events we attend, including football games. To ensure a continuation of this reputation please be aware of a few simple guidelines. If students do not follow the rules, their grade may be affected. In severe cases, you may even be asked to leave an event.

EVERYONE PLAYS EVERY SONG. It is our job to provide music at the games. You don't get to take a break while everyone else is playing. Just have fun with the rest of us!

ONLY CURRENT BAND STUDENTS WILL SIT IN THE BAND SEATING AREA DURING GAMES. Your friends and family will have to sit in another place if they are not in the band. It doesn't look professional when people who are not in uniform sit with the band. *All band students will have assigned seating and will be expected to stay in formation for the entire game.*

NO ONE IS TO LEAVE THE STANDS DURING THE GAMES UNLESS EXCUSED BY A DRUM MAJOR. You may go to the restroom during the game, but you must be excused by a drum major and you must be accompanied by a band booster. Only a certain amount of students will be allowed to leave at one time, so please be patient. Obviously the whole band can't go at once. (EWWW!)

PRIOR TO HALF TIME, SECTIONS WILL BE DISMISSED TO A WARM UP AREA BY A DRUM MAJOR. Please wait patiently and stay in your seat until your row or section is dismissed.

UNIFORMS ARE TO BE WORN FOR THE ENTIRE GAME. To keep up the best possible appearance for the audience we wear our uniform in "performance ready" fashion at all times. Do not remove your gloves or hats unless asked to do so. Yes, I know it can be hot. Either way, you will sweat.... so why not at least look good while you're doing it?

NO EATING OR DRINKING OF BEVERAGES OTHER THAN WATER. Water will be provided for you in the stands. If someone you know offers you something, politely decline. Do not hide food or drink items in your uniform. Violations of this will be dealt with in a serious manner.

WATCH YOUR ACTIONS AND LANGUAGE. Everything you do is noticed when you are wearing a band uniform. You don't just "disappear" into the crowd like everyone else. When in uniform, you represent the band. Act accordingly. We only cheer positively for our team. We do not yell negative things about the other team.

HAVE FUN! Band will undoubtedly provide you with some of your fondest memories from high school. Work hard and have as much fun as possible. Don't hold back. "Leave it all on the field."

ALL OTHER BANDS DESERVE THE SAME RESPECT THAT YOU DO. We are quiet and attentive during all other bands' performances. We also give all other bands applause at appropriate parts of their performances. They have worked just as hard as you have. Cheer them on!

CAMERAS, CELL PHONES, MP3 PLAYERS, ETC. SHOULD NOT BE USED DURING A FOOTBALL GAME. If you are in your uniform, you are performing...even if you're not. What? Yes that's right, you are being watched. A group of high-tech zoned-out band members are not nearly as captivating as a group of energetic people involved in cheers, playing great, and watching the game!

TRAVEL

Traveling to and from activities is a necessary function of the Spartan Band program. Transporting a large number of people to and from activities is a monumental task. To ensure safety and accountability for all involved, the following guidelines have been established:

1. Prior to any travel all Spartan Band members must have completed, signed, and returned the **PARENT PERMISSION - MEDICAL RELEASE FORM**. You should turn this in at the very beginning of the year. If your medical insurance or contact information changes throughout the year, please notify Mr. Smith so we can update your form.
2. As a rule all students must ride to and from any band activity via school transportation. Any exceptions to this must be in writing and on file in the Band Office **PRIOR TO THE ACTIVITY**. Exceptions to riding on the bus will only be granted if there are extenuating circumstances that require it. **PARENTS: Please do not make a habit of asking for special privileges for your student.**
3. The **EARLY RELEASE FORM** is to be utilized when a student wishes to return with a parent (and **ONLY** a parent - no other relatives or friends) from a band activity. These are available on the class website or directly from Mr. Smith. The form must be turned in to the Mr. Smith prior to the activity. **The parent must be present to receive the student from Mr. Smith prior to the student being released from the activity.**
4. Bus rules as listed below will be adhered to on all trips. Food will only be allowed on the bus with the driver's permission and when not traveling in uniform. Boom boxes are not allowed. Personal music devices **WITH HEADPHONES** are permitted, but we cannot be responsible for your personal items if they are lost or stolen.
5. Before leaving on any trip it is the student's responsibility to ensure that they have everything they need for the trip. It is not Mr. Smith's or any band parent's responsibility to make sure you have your equipment with you. We can't take extras of everything with us just because you forgot to bring something.
6. Follow all directions given by Mr. Smith, chaperones, and bus drivers at all times. Failure to do so could result in the student losing travel privileges. It is important that you remain quiet during announcements so that you know exactly what's going on.
7. Out-of-state or out-of-country trips will have additional guidelines that must be followed at all times for safety and organizational reasons. Any type of travel is a privilege. **You must be in good standing with the MHS Music Department and its directors to be eligible to travel with the group.**

BUS POLICIES

Traveling is a school activity and all school rules and expectations apply.

1. Once you have chosen a bus, ride that bus to **AND** from the event unless you have permission from the director to change buses.
2. Load and unload your own equipment. All percussionists should help move, load, and unload all percussion equipment
3. Chaperones may reassign seats if they deem it necessary; students may also be assigned to a different bus at any time at the director's discretion.
4. Normal conversation is appropriate, shouting or screaming is not. Singing may or may not be ok depending on the driver, content, and musicality. Good singing may be acceptable; bad singing never is!
5. After each trip we will meet as a group in the music room. Do not leave until you are dismissed by the director.
6. Bus drivers must be treated with respect. Their rules apply too! Leaving buses with trash on them will not be acceptable. Be courteous and thank the drivers and chaperones when we return.

SPARTAN MUSIC BOOSTERS

<http://www.spartanmusicnh.com>

The fact that your son or daughter has joined the Spartan Band makes you a Spartan Music Booster! The goal of the Spartan Music Boosters is to do everything possible to help Mr. Smith make our band better and Mrs. Erdody make our chorus better too. The Spartan Music Boosters provide an endless amount of help throughout the year. Meetings are open to ALL parents and occur once a month in the music room at 7:00 p.m. (usually the second Monday of each month).

The most IMPORTANT thing a Music Booster can do is be there to watch us perform. The Marching Band loves nothing more than seeing a HUGE section parents in the stands cheering and screaming for them.

We have jobs that last five minutes, five hours, five days, you name it. We appreciate all helpers and volunteers, no matter what your time commitment. Examples of some of the specific things the Spartan Music Boosters do are:

During band camp, the Boosters provide water and fresh fruit to keep band members hydrated. They collect order forms and fees, fit students into uniforms, work in the music room, and supervise students.

Throughout the year we need parents who can sew, fix, construct, maintain, build, cook, fundraise, etc. If you have a special talent, we most likely can use you! Let us know what you can do!

At football games and concert festivals the parents are involved in many ways, including providing water, helping with uniform check-out and check-in, hair braiding, equipment loading and transport, chaperoning, and numerous other things.

ALL OUTSTANDING BANDS HAVE AN OUTSTANDING PARENTS GROUP SUPPORTING THEM. You will see evidence of this at band festivals when you see parents scurrying around just like you! The band simply cannot function at the same level without the boosters. Don't think it is all work and no play though because many of our music boosters have developed friendships that have continued even past graduation! Similar to the students, the parents bond and become a team.

If you would like more details about involvement or have any questions please contact any of the Music Booster Officers or Mr. Smith.

INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLES

CONCERT BAND

Concert Band is an elite performance ensemble that rehearses during the school day and begins full time when the marching season is complete. This ensemble performs a variety of concerts throughout the school year. All performances are held at MHS unless otherwise specified. Attendance at all concerts is mandatory. The concert band will only meet after school for dress rehearsals (dress rehearsals may take place the day of the concert), concerts, and occasionally an announced extra rehearsal.

CONCERT DRESS is black and white unless something different is discussed.

Ladies:

- Opaque white blouse with cap sleeves or longer
- Black skirt (knee length or longer) or black dress pants
- Black dress shoes (low-medium heel)

Gentlemen:

- White long-sleeved, collared, button down dress shirt
- Black dress pants (no jeans)
- Tall black dress socks and black dress shoes
- Nice tie (if in question, see Mr. Smith)

MARCHING BAND

Marching band is a performing group that meets during the school day. After school rehearsals on Wednesday afternoons and evenings take place throughout the fall season. The groups prepares a half-time show that is performed at all home varsity football games and at several New England band shows in October as well as various parades throughout the year. The Spartan marching band is the most visible musical organization on the Milford campus. No auditions are necessary for woodwind and brass players; however, students interested in joining the drum line or color guard will need to speak with Mr. Smith and may be asked to perform an audition. Included in the marching band is the Milford Spartan Color Guard, which provides the visual aspect of our halftime show using flags, rifles, and other props. No prior experience is necessary to try out for the drum line or color guard.

Students are responsible for owning a flip chart and a lyre. Equipment may be ordered online from (www.wwbw.com, www.musiciansfriend.com, or purchased from a local music store).

JAZZ ENSEMBLE

The Milford Jazz Ensemble meets after school from 2:20-4:00pm twice per week throughout the year. Jazz students will learn a variety of styles including swing, latin, funk, rock, and more. Students will also learn improvisation techniques and will be expected to complete jazz listening assignments. A note to students taking drivers ed: the school offered drivers ed class will conflict with jazz band and make it impossible for you to participate in jazz band. Other drivers ed courses are available that do not conflict with the jazz band Tuesday and Thursday rehearsal schedule.

STUDENT LEADERS AND BAND OFFICERS

The MHS band has many student leaders that help the success of the program. Student leaders include section leaders, guard captains, drum majors, and band officers. These leaders are selected via audition on the basis of musical/marching ability, service, dedication, loyalty, and leadership qualities. The number of section leaders/captains/drum majors will vary from section to section and year to year. All student leaders will carry out the policies of the band, band director / instructors, school, and administration to the best of their abilities. Anytime you question or disagree with specific instructions from a student leader, please avoid confrontation and discuss the problem with Mr. Smith. Student leaders cannot give you permission to miss a rehearsal or performance, be tardy, or leave early. Student leaders should be positive and work in the best interest of the MHS music department at all times.

EXTRAS

Students enrolled in the 'full year band class' for all four years of high school will receive a "letter" at the end of their senior. Students who are unable to take 'full year band' may also earn their "letter" by successfully participating in band via an "independent study" or "extended learning opportunity."

Throughout the year there will be many opportunities for students to participate in special music events or ensembles above and beyond what is offered at Milford High School. This year each student will have the choice of preparing and performing an audition for a judge at the NH All-State audition in Manchester, or preparing a solo / ensemble piece and performing it during class at the end of the semester.

SOLO AND ENSEMBLE: Students prepare solos, duets, trios, quartets, flute choirs, clarinet choirs, brass choirs, and many other types of ensembles, and are scored by a judge. NHMEA adjudicated performances provide ratings similar to band festivals.

NEW HAMPSHIRE ALL-STATE: Students prepare etudes, major, chromatic scale, and melodic minor scales and audition for placement in a band and orchestra made up of New Hampshire's best young musicians.

OTHER HONOR GROUPS: All band members are encouraged to take advantage of as many performance opportunities as possible. The Manchester Community Music School hosts many ensembles for young and talented musicians. The Monadnock Valley Music Festival and Hollis- Brookline Concert Band Festival offer an extended performance opportunity for those students who are interested. The UNH Jazz festival and NH Jazz All State Audition process provides students with outstanding opportunities for extended learning. There are a number of other local wind bands, orchestras, and jazz bands that are also often looking for new members. Mr. Smith will provide you with more information as it becomes available.

BUILDING USE

Maintenance of the music room is a large task that is shared by the teacher, students, and custodial staff. We can all take pride in a clean and organized room! To keep the room orderly throughout the year it is expected that all trash will find its way to a trash can, all stands and chairs will be straightened after each rehearsal, all instruments will be stored in their correct places, and any other items used will be placed back in their proper locations. If everyone shares the responsibility of cleaning the room, the job becomes much easier, and everyone can enjoy the clean space.

No student is permitted to be in the music room without a music director or instructor present. Any student found in violation of this policy will face disciplinary action.

SCHOOL OWNED INSTRUMENTS

Certain instruments (trombones, tubas, mellophones, etc.) may be rented from Milford High School at no cost. Any students wishing to rent an instrument must fill out a rental form claiming responsibility for the care and maintenance of that instrument throughout the year. Normal wear and tear is expected. Dents, scratches, bent valves/keys, cracked wood, frozen valves and tuning slides, stuck or lost mouthpieces, rotten pads, and other damages attributed to misuse are not considered "normal wear and tear." The student will be held responsible for paying for all damages.

INSTRUMENT EXPECTATIONS

1. All instruments are expected to be in excellent working order at all times. Please notify the director at an appropriate time (after a rehearsal, before, or after school) about any instrument problems. Often they can be fixed very quickly!
2. Students must have all needed accessories such as new reeds, cork /slide grease, valve / slide oil, mutes, swabs, etc. in their case or quickly accessible at all times (see websites listed in "MARCHING BAND" section for ordering information).
3. Students are expected to perform daily / routine maintenance to keep their instrument in excellent working order.
4. All instruments must be stored in cases in their assigned lockers.
5. No one should play anyone else's instrument without his or her permission. This includes percussion equipment.
6. Students should spend a minimum of thirty minutes per day outside of class practicing their instrument.
7. Treat your instrument and the sounds that come out of it seriously. If you don't, no one else will either. We want to see and hear nothing less than the best you have to offer.



Be a master musician

Not Lisa...



GRADING

33% Daily Grade

Daily attendance, punctuality, performance, and participation are integral to the success of your ensembles. Students will earn 3 points per day for participation.

Students will earn full credit for:

- High level of performance, listening, sitting up, counting, playing, doing your best
- Being set up, warmed up, and ready to tune in time
- Being responsible for all necessary materials (music, instrument, pencil, etc.)
- Refraining from casual conversation during rehearsals and performances
- Displaying a positive attitude and being involved

Deductions will be made for the following:

Unexcused Absence	-3
Unexcused Tardy	-2
No Instrument, Music	-3
Disruptive Behavior	Mr. Smith's Discretion

33% Performance Grade

Attendance and participation at all scheduled performances is required. Except for extreme circumstances (serious illness, family emergency, religious) there will be no excused absences granted from performances. 100 points will be earned for each scheduled performance and evening rehearsal. An unexcused absence or an excused absence that has not been made up will result in a minimum of one letter grade reduction for the grading period.

Deductions will be made for the following:

Unexcused absence	-100
Unexcused Tardy	- 25
Incorrect uniform	- 20

33% Assessments

I may assess your knowledge of musical material in written form (homework, tests, projects, etc.) or your ability to perform assigned musical selections. Playing tests, marching tests, or memory tests will primarily be done during class time and you will be given at least two weeks' notice to prepare.

In Symphonic Band percussionists will be assigned parts on a rotational basis (meaning everyone will play a mallet instrument) and are not exempt from tests involving melodic material (scales, etc.).

Written assessments will be accepted up to five calendar days late, with a 10% late penalty assessed for each day it is late (i.e. 4 days late=40% penalty). Assignments will not be accepted beyond five days late except for extenuating circumstances.

INSPECTIONS (Concert Band and Marching Band)

Inspections will be made multiple times throughout the year. They help to ensure that students are fully prepared and meeting expectations. Failing an inspection will affect a student's grade and/or may result in a loss of privileges. Items to be checked during inspections include:

- Student's instrument is in working order
- Instrument accessories (reeds, mouthpieces, mutes, oils, greases, pencils etc.) are easily accessible (not at home)
- Current music is easily accessible (not at home)
- Instrument and music are stored in the correct place.
- Chorus members will have inspections for current music and pencils in their folders (All members should have their own music).

PRACTICE TIPS

Students are strongly encouraged to practice 30 minutes daily. As each individual improves, so does our program as a whole!

1. Have a plan. Know what you are going to practice and how long you will spend on each item. Don't just plan one day at a time. Set goals for each week, month, and year. Write them down and put them in a place where you will see them often.
2. Avoid distractions. Practice in a quiet place so you can focus. Do not practice while watching TV or listening to the radio.
3. Practice time should be a minimum of 30 minutes per day, even on weekends. If you're still not tired after 30 minutes, push yourself and see how long you can go.
4. Always use correct posture. Use a mirror so you can see your embouchure and correct and bad habits quickly.
5. Have your plan nearby and check things off as you accomplish them.
6. Have you covered all your bases? Playing as loud as you can, as soft as you can, slurs, articulation, scales, arpeggios, lyrical and technical etudes, breath control, slow playing, fast playing, sight reading?
7. Remember to always play/sing with a beautiful sound.
8. As a musician you are like an athlete. How much you sleep, what you eat, what you drink, and when you practice can all have effects on the quality of your playing/singing.
9. Remember to always do your best and push yourself but do not be too hard on yourself. Regular practicing can help to minimize fluctuations in your performance quality.
10. Use a metronome. This will help you keep a steady rhythm at all times.
11. If you are having trouble with a particular section of music, play/sing it VERY SLOWLY at first until you can play/sing it cleanly at the slow tempo. Then gradually increase your tempo. If you begin making mistakes at the faster, go back to the slow tempo until you can play it with no mistakes, then try again to go a little faster. Clean and slow is better than fast with mistakes!!
12. Have fun. Learning to enjoy practicing will make you want to practice more!

PRIVATE LESSON PROGRAM

The private lesson program was formed in 2013 and has been a huge success. With the support and dedication of our parents and students, we hope to see this program continue to grow and become a vibrant part of the Milford Music Department for years to come.

The Milford Private Lesson Program gives our students the opportunity to further their study of music with one-on-one instruction. The private lesson teachers in our program are each specialists on the instruments taught and are able to share their expertise and musical experiences with the students. Private lessons benefit all who elect to participate, from our beginner students to our most advanced.. www.spartanmusicnh.com/lessons