

MARCHING CHIEFS HANDBOOK

2016-2017

PHILOSOPHY

The Monacan High School Marching Chiefs is an organization of students and staff who pride ourselves on excellence – excellence in our personal performance, our section's performance, our band's performance, and in the way we represent ourselves and our school. Excellence is a choice people make, just as mediocrity is a choice. Excellence is not a gift you're born with, but something you strive for out of the conviction that being as good as you can be is what life is all about. We know that the road to excellence is not always going to be an easy one, but if we work together then excellence is an attainable goal. This handbook outlines our policies that are necessary to achieve the goals that we set for ourselves – to have pride in ourselves and others, to always perform as winners, and to work together to be truly excellent in everything that we do. Excellent bands differ not in what they do, but how they do it.

DESCRIPTION

Marching Chiefs (extra-curricular)

The Marching Chiefs is open to students who are enrolled in a band class and who have had previous musical experience by recommendation of the band director. Performance skills are developed through group and individualized instruction. Students learn basic music skills as well as marching fundamentals. The Marching Chiefs perform at all home football games, some away football games, band competitions during the fall, and some local parades.

The Marching Chiefs meet after school during the fall. Band camp is held during three weeks in August and attendance at camp is mandatory. Students will be notified of band camp dates early in the fall semester so that vacations can be planned around camp.

Color Guard (extra-curricular)

Color guard members are selected by audition and are a part of the Marching Chiefs. The color guard functions as one of the most important visual elements of the marching band show. Guard members undergo rigorous training in dance and equipment work. All equipment is provided by the school. Guard members may be responsible for paying part or all of the cost of their own uniforms which change yearly based on the type of show performed.

Monacan High School Band Boosters

The Monacan High School Band Program could not exist without the support of the Band Boosters. This organization is made up of parents who are taking an active and concerned role in the education of their children. This organization provides the bulk of the financial support that allows the program to grow and to provide the students with the highest quality education possible. All parents are invited and encouraged to come and be a part of this crucial element of the Monacan Band program. Participation in this group is not just work – there is a great deal of fun to be had while working closely with the students and staff! Meetings are usually held on the second Monday of each month at 7PM in the band room. Come and see how you can get involved!

Drum Majors and Section Leaders

Students wishing to apply for drum major or section leader of the Marching Chiefs must have at least one year's experience in the Marching Chiefs. Applications will be made available in the spring for these positions. Drum major auditions will be held in June. Drum majors and section leaders are encouraged to attend a summer band camp to improve leadership and conducting skills (attendance at a summer band camp is required for drum majors). Camp information will be made available by the director.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

UNIFORMS When we wear the uniform of the Monacan High School Marching Chiefs, we are representing not only ourselves but our band and our school. We should wear the uniform in such a way that everyone who sees us will know the pride and respect we feel for each other and for our band and our school.

The school will provide each student with a uniform for marching band. Students will be responsible for purchasing shoes and gloves of a style designated by the director. The band T-shirt is part of the uniform and is to be worn under the uniform at all times. In the case of extreme heat, jackets, hats, and gloves may be removed at the direction of the director or drum major. Students must be wearing the band T-shirt or they may not be allowed to remove their jacket.

The band uniform is not to be taken home for any reason. All uniforms will be kept at the school and issued to the student prior to each performance. Following a performance, students are responsible for seeing that their uniform is properly hung and all parts, including the hat and plume, are returned to their proper place within 30 minutes of the time of dismissal.

Students are to wear only the complete uniform at all functions designated by the director. Do not appear in public or outside the band room, bus, or car in partial uniform unless directed to do so by the director or drum major. Students are not to wear jewelry (small stud earrings are acceptable) and watches while in uniform. Guard members may wear jewelry as a part of the uniform as deemed appropriate by the staff.

Students need to be EXTREMELY CAREFUL when eating or drinking while in uniform. Chewing gum is not allowed while in uniform.

FOOTBALL GAMES Our first priorities at football games are to support the team and to represent our school in a positive way.

Students will sit in the assigned area in the bleachers at all times with pep music ready. Students in good standing may have the third quarter off until 30 seconds are left in the quarter. At this time all students must be in their seats ready to play. Students not back in time will not be permitted to have the third quarter off at the next game. During the game, non-band members may not sit with the band. Students are to leave uniforms on and zipped during the entire game unless otherwise instructed by the band director or drum major.

BUSES All Chesterfield County bus rules apply to all trips.

Students will be assigned to buses prior to any trip away from school and will be expected to remain on their respective buses throughout the trip. The director reserves the right to make seating changes at any time. Anyone causing damage to a bus will be held accountable. Proper and courteous behavior is expected from all students at all times.

FEES Marching band is an expensive activity. All band members are assessed a fee to help defray the cost of our yearly budget.

Each year students will be required to pay a fee for participation in the Marching Chiefs. This fee will be used to help defray the cost of instructional staff, purchase of music, transportation, uniforms, instrument repair and replacement, and other items associated with the marching program. This fee is not intended to exclude anyone from participation in the Marching Chiefs – any student with a financial concern is encouraged to speak to the director about it. There will be additional costs for all students choosing to participate in any trips taken in the spring. There will be adequate notice of such expenses and the students will have the opportunity to raise some of the money for these trips through various fundraisers.

TRAVEL The Marching Chiefs is a highly visible ambassador of the school. We must always keep this responsibility in mind as we travel.

While traveling, band members represent not only themselves but their band and their school as well. We should conduct ourselves in such a way that everyone who sees us will know the pride and respect we feel for each other and for our band and our school. Therefore, all school rules apply and take precedence. At the director's discretion, students may be permitted to ride home from local events with their parents. Parents should send a note prior to the event and must be present at the designated area to pick up their student. Students may not be picked up by anyone other than their parents.

FUNDRAISING Raising funds is an important part of meeting our budget so that we can have a successful year.

Throughout the course of the year, all students will be asked to participate in fundraising activities. These activities may range from assistance with the Fall Craft Fair and Spring Yard Sale to the selling of items through a designated fundraising company. A large portion of our annual budget is determined by the success of our fundraising efforts.

All money must be turned in at the designated time in a sealed envelope with the name of the student and amount and description of the payment on the outside of the envelope. All payments and fundraising monies must be turned in on the date requested.

MEDICAL INFORMATION Absolutely necessary for all students.

Students are required to have a medical form properly filled out and signed by their parents before they will be allowed to participate in band activities. Students are also required to provide proof of hospitalization insurance coverage. This proof can be a photocopy of the parent's health insurance card or school insurance card. This can be copied directly onto the back of the medical form that is provided. If the student is not covered, the parents will be required to attach a letter stating that the school will not be held responsible for charges incurred due to medical emergency and that the parent assumes legal responsibility for all such charges.

ATTENDANCE In order to get the most out of our rehearsals and to perform at our best, it is of the utmost importance that EVERYONE be present.

The success of any organization depends on the commitment of each of its members and the absence of any member adversely affects the entire group. Therefore, all scheduled band activities are mandatory. This, of course, does not include special situations such as extreme illness, death in the family, or circumstances beyond the control of the parties involved. However, if an emergency does

arise, please make every effort to contact the director as soon as possible. If a student is at school, they are expected to be at afternoon rehearsal. A student who misses a rehearsal must bring a note from their parent explaining the absence the next day. Students with unexcused absences may be dismissed from the Marching Chiefs. If a student has to miss a rehearsal or performance, the parent must notify Ms. Ryan in writing at least two weeks before the scheduled activity. **Having to work is never an acceptable excuse for missing a scheduled band activity.**

Students may attend no more than one club meeting per week after school. They should be at rehearsal by 2:30 PM with a pass from the club sponsor verifying their attendance at the meeting. Test make-ups or after-school help from a teacher is permitted as long as the student brings a pass from the teacher to rehearsal.

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS Marching Chiefs members are held to a high behavior standard.

As a member of the Marching Chiefs, students must understand that they are representatives of the band program, the school, and the county. If their words or actions reflect negatively on the Marching Chiefs or Monacan High School, they will be subject to disciplinary action and possible dismissal from the Marching Chiefs.

To achieve excellence in our program, we must have...

- **An environment conducive to learning:** In a large group, problems – minor or serious – distract us from focusing our attention on the task at hand. Enforcement of rules helps us to eliminate distractions.
- **A group to be proud of:** When you are surrounded by people who are dedicated to the same goal as you are, and you have all the right tools to work with, excellence is an attainable goal. Being a member of the Marching Chiefs means doing more than just going through the motions. Behaving responsibly, knowing that your actions as a member of the group reflect on every other member, being on time, having a positive attitude, and working productively toward our goals will make progress possible and failure impossible.
- **An organization that works:** It takes more than dedicated people who want to learn to make a good band. It also takes a well-written show with good music, lots of money, and community support – especially the support of our parents and the adults around us. These people volunteer their time and are endlessly committed to us. The best way to show our appreciation is by never tolerating any disrespect towards them and by following their instructions.

Please sign and return this page to Ms. Ryan no later than Thursday, August 18.

I have read and understand the information presented in this handbook. I understand that failure to abide by these policies may result in my dismissal from the Marching Chiefs.

Student signature

Date

I have read and understand the information presented in this handbook. I understand that failure to abide by these policies may result in my child's dismissal from the Marching Chiefs.

Parent/guardian signature

Date