

# Things that MMMB Band Parents Need to Know

- **MMMB** - Stands for Marquette Mustangs Marching Band. MMMB includes percussion (pit and battery), winds (brass and woodwind instruments), and color guard.

**BAND BOOSTERS** is an organization made up of parents that fundraise and support the marching band.

- **COMMUNICATION**- You will receive information through emails and text messages. Any new members and parents should sign up with Remind Text (directions can be found on the band website - <http://www.marquette-bands.com> ).
- **READ** the “Tips to surviving marching season”. It is full of helpful information.
- **VOLUNTEER!!** We can't do it without you—volunteer and come to the band booster meetings. You get to know the kids that your child spends so much time with and you get to work with a great group of people. You will be asked to commit time, energy, and sometimes simple donations. No experience necessary. No, REALLY! There are tasks that require specific skills, but most opportunities do not. You are bound to find something you enjoy doing. Getting involved in the marching band program will give you the opportunity to share with your child the last few years of their education. Your child might say they would rather not have you around, but most parents actually learn that in reality they appreciate your involvement and will thank you in the future. Your student will be making all kinds of new friends, why shouldn't you? You can find people to carpool with, volunteer with, celebrate with, and commiserate with. You will also get to know the parents of the kids your student is hanging around. Plan to attend as many Booster meetings as you can. They are a great source of information.
- **FEES** -Marching band fees help pay for band camp, band banquet, Eighth Grade Night, equipment, competition fees, advertisement, professional services, transportation, and clinicians. The art programs are given a minimum amount of money from the school district and we, the parents, need to help make up the difference.
- **THE BLACK BOX** is an actual black box where you can turn in forms and money. It is a large metal box that sits on the floor. Walk through the band room doors and it is in the corner on your left.
- **STUDENT ACCOUNT** – this is an individual account that is set up for each member of MMMB. There are individual fundraisers held throughout the year. The profits from what your child sells goes into his/her account and you can use this money to for child's marching band fees, trips, etc.
- **FOOTBALL GAMES** are a great place for the band to practice their show for an audience while in uniform. *ALL* parents are required to help at one football game. You can help with moving pit equipment to and from the football field or props (putting together, moving to and from football field, and holding up). You are not limited to helping only once, you can help at more than one football game if you like. Football Program Ad – You can purchase a Football Program Ad (handed out at April meeting or emailed at a later date). This is an ad that will be printed in the MHS Football Program so you can give a shout out to the MMMB or to your son/daughter.

- **COMPETITIONS** - Do Parents go to Competitions?

Yes! *ALL* parents are required to help at one competition. You can help with moving pit equipment to and from the football field or props (putting together, moving to and from football field, and holding up). You are not limited to helping only once, you can help at more than one competition if you like. If you are not helping, you can sit in the stands with other MMMB parents cheer the kids on.

Competitions last all day.

The show is not done when they go to their first competition. Each competition will have a little more of the show added to it. By the last competition, the entire show will be performed – so don't miss it!

*Bring with you (or keep in your car):*

- Warm clothing/blanket – Competitions are held outdoors in the evening, and can get quite cold. Hats, gloves, scarves will help keep you comfortable. Obviously, if it is sunny out, remember sunscreen, hats and sunglasses. Just like the scouting motto: BE PREPARED.

- Stadium seats/something to sit on.

- Cash – Most marching band competitions charge an admission fee. There is always concession food available for sale and souvenirs.

- Camera and/or video camera.

- **BALLOON LAUNCH** – this is an event that happens late in the marching season before heading out to a competition. It is to celebrate and recognize the Senior marching band members.

- **WOUNDED WARRIOR BENEFIT** – this is an event held at St. Alban's Country Club in late September that the some of the marching band members (winds and battery) attend. This is during the morning on a school day. The band performs the National Anthem before the Wounded Warrior Golf Benefit begins.

- **VETERAN'S DAY ASSEMBLY** – Some of the marching band members (winds and battery) performs at an elementary school assembly the week of Veteran's Day. This is during the morning on a school day.

- **MARQUETTE MARCHING BAND CAR DECALS** are sold in the school store. They are behind the counter – just ask one of the wonderful parent volunteers for them.

- **BAND BANQUET** – this is held at the end of the school year.

- **OVERWHELMING** - You will feel overwhelmed and have questions. The time commitment appears very overwhelming. It really isn't as bad as it looks and the marching season goes by quickly. Ask any current MMMB parent and they will be more than happy to help you out. Remember - You are not alone.

- **YES, IT'S WORTH IT!**

All of the rides, time, and effort that as a parent you put into getting your child to and from practices are worth every second. You may not be able to appreciate that 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 starts to come together and everything changes. There is a new energy, a new excitement. This is the point where they will either LOVE marching band, or plan a different activity next year. Most of the kids LOVE marching band by the end of the season, so make them tough it out for the whole season. It will be worth it. You may be uncomfortable at points. You will feel unsure. If you can push past the confusion and the chaos, you will probably get hooked like the rest of us. There is no way to describe how amazing this experience can be, but if you get involved you will find out for yourself.