

Band Handbook

A complete digest of all regulations and procedures for the
MOUNT DORA HIGH SCHOOL BAND



Director of Bands: Mr. Michael Uhrich **Principal:** Dr. Rhonda Boone

Welcome - New and returning Members of the Mount Dora Band Family,

It is with great excitement that I welcome you to this new school year. We are about to embark on a journey that will contain some of your life's most lasting memories. This is a wonderfully important time in your life, and much of what you do here will shape your very existence. I speak so deeply of these experiences because of my own personal experiences of the same nature. I still recall the first day I set foot in my high school's band room. It was exciting, intimidating, and a bit overwhelming, all at once. Hopefully, we can alleviate any fears, maintain your excitement, and utilize your talents to the overall fulfillment of our band program and your own educational experience.

This handbook is designed to provide necessary information regarding the Mount Dora High School Band Program. It should answer most of the questions that you may have about the program, as well as provide useful information regarding requirements that are necessary in being a member of the program.

My goal every year is to train students to be better musicians, but more so, to educate them to be better people. The things outside of the music itself (the intangible character and social lessons) are the most important things we all learn through the process of music education, and although trophies are nice, the lifelong friendships and experiences you will develop over the next year(s) is the only reward that matters when it's over. I always enjoy seeing our students gain that experience and develop from young and inexperienced musicians into mature citizens with a solid grasp on reality. I am always proud to see our students move into the next steps in life, knowing fully well that the experience of being a high school musician has prepared them more than any other experiences.

So, again, it is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that I welcome you to this family. This journey will include much hard work, but I can't wait to see what we can all do together. Sincerely,

Mr. Michael S. Uhrich, Director of Bands
Mount Dora High School

I. Performance Groups

Mount Dora Marching Canes:

The Mount Dora Marching Canes is the combined membership of the entire band program. With an annual membership of approximately 100-130 students, the Marching Canes is a musical marching unit organized to provide artistic and entertaining performances for football games, parades, pep rallies, concerts, and competitions. It is an integral part of instrumental music education at MDHS. Membership requires total dedication, maximum effort, and involvement in all aspects of marching and music performance. The Marching Canes rehearse on Tuesday and Thursday Evenings. Additional weekly rehearsals are required for members of the Percussion and Color Guard sections.

Symphonic Band:

The Symphonic Band is comprised of mainly 11 and 12 grade students with previous instruction in wind instruments. It consists of modern wind band instrumentation and provides instruction in common-practice period and twentieth century wind band literature and orchestral transcriptions. Private study is suggested of members in this ensemble. The full Symphonic Band rehearses on Tuesday afternoons beginning right after marching season and continuing through the spring semester. The Symphonic Band performs at the Florida Bandmasters Association District and State Concert Music Performance Assessments and at various concerts throughout the year.

Concert Band:

The Concert band is comprised mainly of 9th and 10grade students with or without previous instruction on wind instruments. It consists of modern wind band instrumentation and provides instruction in common-practice period and twentieth century wind band literature and orchestral transcriptions. This is our second concert ensemble. The full Concert Band rehearses on Thursday beginning right after marching season and continuing through the spring semester. Concert Band performs at the Florida Bandmasters Association District and State Concert Music Performance Assessments and at various concerts throughout the year.

Jazz Bands:

The Jazz Bands (Storm Force Jazz Ensemble 1 /Storm Force Jazz Ensemble 1 / Jazz Combo) are a select group of instrumentalists from the Band Program and membership that perform jazz repertoire. The repertoire of the ensemble is selected from a variety of jazz styles. The Storm Force Jazz Ensemble 1 consists of mainly 11th and 12th grade students with previous jazz experience. The Storm Force Jazz Ensemble 2 consists mainly of 9th and 10th grade students with or without previous jazz experience. The Jazz Combo is a small ensemble with select member from the Jazz Ensemble. The Jazz Bands perform at the Florida Bandmasters Association District and State Solo and Ensemble Music Performance Assessments and at various concerts throughout the year.

Percussion Ensembles:

The Percussion Ensembles address specific instruction in the area of percussion. Students can expect to play challenging literature in an intense percussion environment. Members of the percussion ensembles are members of the Mount Dora Marching Canes and take part in all Marching Canes rehearsals and performances. Members of the Percussion Ensemble are required to perform in either the Symphonic Band or the Concert Band. The Percussion Ensembles perform at the Florida Bandmasters Association District and State Solo and Ensemble Music Performance Assessments, and at various concerts throughout the year.

Colorguard Ensembles:

The Colorguard Ensembles are the visual ensembles that greatly enhance the performances of the Mount Dora Marching Canes. Members learn from skilled instructors in the areas of flag, rifle, saber, and dance. Members of the guard ensembles are members of the Mount Dora Marching Canes and take part in all Marching Canes rehearsals and performances. The Guard Ensembles also rehearse separately throughout the Fall and Spring. The Guard activity continues in the second semester each year with the Winter Guard Program, an activity that begins near the end of marching season and concludes in Late Spring. Students who are in the Fall Color Guard are expected to participate in the Winter Guard program. The Winter Guard performs at the Florida Bandmasters Association District and State Solo and Ensemble Music Performance Assessments, and other regional events.

II. Attendance Policy

Band members are required to attend all rehearsal and performances. As a co-curricular course, rehearsals and performances are part of the educational process. Absences affect not only the individual who is absent, but also the entire ensemble. An absence necessitates repeating educational instruction when the student returns, as well as eliminating the opportunity to develop blend, balance, and precision with the other students in the ensemble. Students must be on time for all band functions. Learning to be early (on time) now will establish a lifelong habit that is critical to success.

Excused Absence From a Rehearsal: Except in cases of extreme emergency or illness, band members will not be excused from rehearsals. In case of illness, students are expected to contact the band director (uhrichm@lake.k12.fl.us) as early as possible so that substitutions or replacements can be made.

Appointments, meetings, work, vacations, babysitting, homework, studying, etc. will not be valid excuses for missing a rehearsal. A written excuse from the parent or guardian is due within two days of the absence. If you anticipate an unavoidable absence from rehearsal, please submit a written request to Mr. Uhrich prior to the intended absence. This can be found on the band website in the members section. All absences affect a student's grade because of lost instruction time that cannot be made up. Two or more absences may result in that individual being placed on alternate status.

Unexcused Absence From a Rehearsal: Any student with an unexcused absence from a rehearsal will receive a zero for that rehearsal grade. An unexcused absence may result in the student being placed on alternate status. Rehearsal grades cannot be made up.

Tardy to Rehearsals / Performances: Attendance will be taken at the beginning of a rehearsal or performance. If a student is habitually late for rehearsals they may be placed on alternate status and their participation grade will be lowered. In addition to a lowered grade, any student arriving late for a performance will lose their third-quarter break (Marching Canes) and may forfeit the opportunity to perform (All Ensembles).

Absence From a Performance: Performances are major grades. Any absence that is not brought to the attention of Mr. Uhrich for approval prior to the performance will be considered unexcused. Unexcused absences count as zeros for a major grade, and may potentially result in the individual's removal from the

Band Program. If you anticipate an unavoidable absence from a performance, please submit a written request, found on the band website in the members section, to Mr. Urich at least one month prior to the intended absence.

Summer Mount Dora Marching Canes Camps:

All students wishing to be members of the Mount Dora High School Band Program must plan to attend Summer Band Camps. Students who miss all or part of Band Camp will be placed on alternate status and must acquire the needed performance skills and await the opening of a show position before being allowed to perform. Alternate status does not relieve the student from his/her rehearsal, performance, or financial obligations to the organization. See the calendar for dates and times.

Alternate Status (Mount Dora Marching Canes):

It is imperative that all members of the Mount Dora High School Band Program be present at all rehearsals and performances. We understand that students get sick and that unforeseen emergencies may come up. However, our success as an organization will be dependent on our attendance. Even one person that is missing from a rehearsal or performance affects all other members. Each member is relied upon heavily to maintain their responsibilities in the drill - we cannot improve the show or make changes when we have holes in our drill at rehearsals.

Holes at performances drastically affect the confidence of the performing members around that missing person, which in turn affects the confidence of the entire ensemble. We also lose important musical elements from missing members - the performance simply does not sound the same without them! Everyone is important!

In an effort to maintain the quality of the Marching Canes organization, we make use of alternates when and where necessary. Alternates are students that are members of the Mount Dora Marching Canes and the MDHS Band Program, but they do not have a designated position in the show for one or more musical selections. Students are placed on alternate status for a number of reasons: they may have missed part or all of a summer camp, they may have missed a rehearsal unexcused, they may be chronically tardy to rehearsals or performances, they may be involved in another sport or club at school, or they may simply have just moved into the area and be a new student at Mount Dora. In some cases, a student may have attended all summer rehearsals, but there may be an overabundance of certain instruments in a given year for the number of spots on the field that have been allotted. It is our goal to get our alternate worked into

the show at some point, provided that there have been no problems with the student and that the drill allows for the addition of the student and the drill coordinate.

Alternates are required to be at rehearsals and performances, as most of these students will perform at some point. Alternates are members of the Mount Dora Marching Canes, and are therefore responsible for learned material. The only way for us to experience the greatest educational return and level of achievement is for every position in the drill to be occupied at rehearsals and performances.

III. Grading Policy

Performances/Rehearsals: 70%

Weekly performance assessments: 30%

As a co-curricular performance-oriented activity, attendance is required at rehearsals and performances beyond regular school hours. This time will be kept to the necessary minimum, realizing that other studies as well as family and personal time are important. This includes rehearsals, concerts, festivals, competitions, etc.

IV. Rehearsal and Performance Procedure

Concert Bands / Jazz Bands / Percussion Ensembles:

- Every band member should bring instruments, music and proper equipment to every rehearsal and performance.
- Everyone needs a PENCIL in every rehearsal.
- There is to be no talking or disturbance during rehearsal.
- Gum Chewing, Eating, or drinking (except water) is not permitted during rehearsals or performances.
- Each student should be seated at the time designated by the Director or the student will be marked tardy.
- Posture is of utmost importance. Students should avoid crossed legs or ankles and slumping when seated in chairs. Do not lean back in your chair! Do not lean on music stands!
- The dry-erase board/website projection in the front of the Band Room should be read upon entering the rehearsal room for special instructions.

- Music folders, instruments and equipment should be kept in their proper storage places when not in use. Music and folders should not be left on the music stands.
- All trash should be thrown in the waste container. Students may not bring books or study materials to their seats.
- Loud talking or any other inappropriate behavior, including any kind of horseplay, is not allowed in the Music Building.

V. Mount Dora Marching Canes:

- Each year it is necessary for the Mount Dora Marching Canes to meet for two weeks before school begins. All members of the Band are required to attend Summer Band Camps and other summer rehearsals scheduled by the Director.
- Everyone needs a PENCIL in every rehearsal.
- In addition to the Director, adjunct Staff Members and Band Colonels have the authority to help run rehearsal and make decisions at the request of the Director. All members of the Mount Dora Marching Canes are expected to respect their authority at all times.
- Students are expected to be in their positions on time with instruments, coordinates, pencils, music, etc.
- There is to be no individual playing before rehearsal or at any time during a rehearsal, outdoors or indoors, unless the Director, Staff Members, or Band Colonels deem it specifically necessary. Instrument warm-up will be done together under the direction of the Director and Staff Members.

VI. Public Performances:

Every student will receive a schedule of performances the Band Program will be attending throughout the year. In addition, information regarding these events will be posted on the website and in the classroom, It is the student's responsibility to know this information. All information provided should be read daily. Always report (rain or shine) to the designated meeting place. If there is a cancellation of a performance, it will be posted on the band website

VII. All-State Band / All-District Band

The All-State Bands are ensembles drawn, through auditions, from the finest musicians in the state of Florida. They perform at the Florida Music Educators Association convention each January. Participation in the All-State Band is a great honor. Auditions will be held on a date in September. The audition fee is due by Middle August to reserve an audition slot. Summer is the ideal time for preparation of those materials,

All-District and All-County Bands are ensembles drawn, through auditions, from the finest musicians in Lake, Sumter, and Marion Counties - FBA District 19. The audition material is very similar to the All-State material. Auditions for All- District Band are usually held in December.

FBA Solo & Ensemble MPA:

The Solo & Ensemble Music Performance Assessment of the Florida Bandmasters Association is held in February each year. The educational experience of preparing a solo or a chamber ensemble is invaluable. In addition, the opportunity to perform for an audience and receive constructive comments from a qualified adjudicator is a wonderful learning experience. Participation in the ensemble portion of the MPA may be required at the Director s Discretion.

Uniforms

Mount Dora Marching Canes: Uniforms are checked out to individuals at the beginning of the season. Uniform fittings are typically scheduled during the summer camps. Students are expected to purchase

Black Gloves, Black Socks, Black Uniform Band Shoes, and their Band T-Shirts. Orders for Band shoes will be taken during Summer Camps. Students will not be allowed to perform without all parts of the uniform. Rehearsal dress for the Marching Canes should be appropriate, comfortable clothes. Outside temperature (hot and cold) should be taken into consideration when you pick your attire. For Summer Band, wear white t-shirts, shorts, tennis shoes with socks, hats, and sunscreen. No sandals or backless shoes will be allowed. Students must follow LCS Dress Code at all times when with the Mount Dora Band Program!

Concert Bands / Percussion Ensembles:

Students are expected to own a pair of black trousers (with belt loops), black socks, a black belt, black shoes. No medals or patches can be worn on your person during any performances. Small, non-distractive jewelry and moderate make-up may be worn for concerts. All decisions regarding appropriate concert dress are at the discretion of the Director.

Jazz Bands:

Students will purchase a uniform Polo Shirt as a member of this ensemble. The students will also be expected to own a pair of black trousers (with belt loops), black socks, a black belt, and black shoes. No medals or patches can be worn on your person during any performances. Small, non-distractive jewelry and moderate make-up may be worn for concerts. All decisions regarding appropriate concert dress are at the discretion of the Director.

Mount Dora High School Band Guard Ensembles:

Students will purchase a color guard and a winter guard uniform as a member of these ensembles. No medals or patches can be worn on your person during any performances. Make-up and jewelry are at the discretion of the director, instructors, and designers. All decisions regarding appropriate dress are at the discretion of the Director.

VIII. Mount Dora Marching Canes

Rehearsals:

In addition to class period rehearsals, the Marching Canes also rehearses after school each week during the fall. The full Marching Canes rehearses on Tuesday evenings from 5:00pm to 8:00pm and Thursdays after school from 5:00pm to 8:00pm. The Percussion Section and Color Guard also rehearse on Monday evenings from 5:00pm to 8:00pm. All after school rehearsals are required of all members. They are a critical part of the Marching Canes's success and band grade for the students. Absences will only be excused in case of emergency. Doctor appointments, work, sports, and other activities will not be excused unless previously discussed with Mr. Uhrich. If an unexcused absence occurs, the student will likely be placed on alternate status. A student's band grade is directly affected by attendance at after-school rehearsals. Please strongly consider your commitment to the Mount Dora Band Program if you cannot consistently make after-school rehearsals.

Football Games:

The Marching Canes will perform at as many as 10-14 football games during the season. Football games are a regular opportunity for the Marching Canes to showcase all of their hard work! Report times for game days are 5:00pm. Students are expected to either bring food or pre-pay for our tailgating dinners ahead of time. Students may also bring money to purchase additional food later in the evening from the concession stand. Students are typically done around 11:00pm for most games, except those that involve extended travel time.

Football games are as important as competitions. The Director rarely excuses absences. Students that have an unexcused absence from a performance will likely be dismissed from the Mount Dora Band Program. We want each student to have the best experience possible; that will happen when attendance is a priority with every member!

• Pre-Game:

1. The Marching Canes will report immediately to inspection.
2. Then, students will load buses and trailers for away games, or report to the band room for warm-up for home games.

3. Whether Home or Away, the Marching Canes will march into the stadium. Listen for instructions - every situation is different.

• **Stadium Seating:**

1. Each student should file to his or her assigned seat - to be determined by the Director.
2. Once the student is in place, they are to remain standing at attention until further instructed.
3. Ranks and files should be kept in alignment - how we look in the stands is important.
4. Uniforms are to be properly worn at all times. NEVER wear your uniform improperly, or unzip or undo your uniform unless instructed specifically to do so.
5. Non-Band Members or non-chaperones are not allowed within the Band Section. Please explain this to friends, family, alumni, etc.
6. Refreshments (drink or food) are not allowed in the stands or at any other time a student is in uniform except under special circumstances (which are rare!). Our chaperones will provide water.
7. A break will be given to students during the 3rd Quarter of each game. The sooner you can return to the stands after half time and be seated, the sooner you will be released for your break. You must be back in place, ready to play, at the end of the 3rd Quarter. There is a possibility we might forego this break in some situations. 3rd Quarter break privileges can be lost for a variety of reasons: tardiness, failure to have all equipment, etc.
8. Students are not to leave the Band unless accompanied by a chaperone, except during 3rd Quarter break. Students should always stay in groups of two or more for your own safety.
9. All Marching Canes members should be professional at all times, and you should never be anywhere without at least two other people around you.

10. Treat Visiting Bands, Directors, and Chaperones with the utmost of respect at all times.

Half-time and Post-game:

1. Marching Canes members should file from the stands in a quick and orderly manner to the designated warm-up areas.
2. While other Bands perform, Marching Canes members are expected to be a good audience.
3. After the half-time performance, members will return quickly to their seats and wait for instructions.
4. At the conclusion of the game, the Marching Canes will play the school fight song and alma mater. Immediately following, all students will move to the buses in formation and load all equipment for the return trip to school (Away Games).
5. Uniforms are to be handled with care at all times.
6. Put all music, instruments, and equipment away before leaving.
7. PLEASE make arrangements for a ride before the game. We will post the times of our arrival so that your parent can be waiting. It is not fair for the Director or Chaperones to have to wait for your ride to arrive.

Competitions / Festivals:

The Marching Canes will attend two FMBC regional competitions and the FBA District 19 Marching Music Performance Assessment, as well as FMBC State Championships, if qualified. These performances occur on Saturdays. They involve some travel and take up most of that given day. All attendance policies for football game performances apply to competitions / festivals.

IX. Financial Obligations

Band Assessment:

Each year the Mount Dora High School Band Program spends an average of approximately \$300.00 per student, Very little, if any, of that money comes from Lake County Schools. The campus concessions that our band parents operate are a major source of revenue for our program. However, we would still fall VERY short of the program's financial needs were it not for Band Assessment.

The General Band Fair Share Assessment is \$350.00 per student, covering Mount Dora Marching Canes, Concert Bands, Jazz Bands, Percussion Ensembles, and Guard Ensembles. (It does not include the purchase of any personal uniform items).

Payment Schedule:

It is important to note that the money assessed to each student is used throughout the entire year, not just the fall marching season. There is no doubt that the fall is our most expensive time of year, but there are many expenses that we incur in the spring as well.

We expect that 100% of the Fair Share Assessment will be fundraised, however, if you are unable to fundraise the amounts by the specific dates, you will be expected to cover that amount out of pocket.

There are other expenses that need to be covered by the student and their families. Those include under uniforms, band guard shoes and gloves, percussion wristbands, gloves, Bibbers, Jazz Pants, Rehearsal Uniforms, Jazz Polo Shirts, the materials listed in the next section, etc. These items will be presented to each student as the need arises.

First Fundraising Goal - Band Camp(Usually the third week in July) - \$150(\$50 - covers food/instruction for Band camp)

Second Fundraising Goal - September 1 - \$100

Third Fundraising Goal - October 1 - \$100

Band Materials List

There are several items that band members will need to purchase, not included in their financial obligations to the organization. The following lists are required and optional materials that band members should purchase:

Wind Players:

- Korg Tm-40 tuner/Metronome (or similar)
- A folding music stand
- A White Towel
- A Water Bottle
- A supply of Vandoren reeds (Clarinets/Saxophones)
- Pencils
- An Instrument Cleaning Kit
- Valve Oil / Rotor Oil / Key Oil / Cork Grease
- Sunscreen / Hats / Bug Spray
- Three-Ring Binder (at least 1-inch)
- Plastic Page Protectors (at least 20)

Percussion:

- Innovative Percussion FP-3 College Primer Pack
- Innovative Percussion IP-HB Hybrid Combo Drumsticks

- Real Feel 12-inch Double-sided Practice Pad (or similar)
- Korg Tm-40 Tuner / Metronome (or similar)
- Folding Music Stand
- A Water Bottle
- Pencils
- A Black Towel
- White Electrical Tape (Battery Percussionists)
- Decibel-reducing earplugs
- Three-Ring Binder (at least 1-inch)
- Plastic Page Protectors (at least 20)
- Percussive Arts Society Membership (Optional)
- All Necessary Marching Sticks / Mallets

Color Guard:

- Color Guard staff will provide information on necessary extra materials.

X. Travel Policies

- A travel itinerary and procedures list will be published for each major trip. It is important that these instructions be followed so the Band can move quickly, safely, and efficiently. The parent or guardian of each student will be expected to fill out an Emergency Treatment Authorization Form. Students will not travel with the Band without this form.
- Students will be expected to sign up for bus seating by class and/or room. Students will not be allowed to change buses or rooms without the permission of the Director.
- Students are asked to be careful and safe. If an accident, injury, or illness does occur, the chaperone in charge should be notified at once. The chaperone will then notify the Director.
- For Concert Ensemble performances, music will be transported in music cases. During the Marching Season, each member will be responsible for his or her own folder and music at all times.
- All Band members are responsible for the set up and tear down of concert settings. When everyone does their part, things run smoothly.
- Chaperones will be in charge of each bus. They will be responsible for calling roll and maintaining good conduct. No bus should be permitted to leave a stop until the roll is checked. Report that you are ready to move to the Director.
- It should be noted that proper behavior is expected when on a school-sponsored trip. The Lake County Schools Code of Student Conduct will be observed at all times. Undignified conduct or reckless behavior may result in disciplinary action, suspension from school, and/or dismissal from the Band Program.
- POSSESSION OR USE OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, OR NARCOTICS IS FORBIDDEN. These matters will be turned over to legal authorities.

Band Trip Reminders:

- Chaperones and Officers are to be obeyed and treated with courtesy and respect. They are the delegates of the Directors.
- The complete uniform (Concert or Marching Canes or otherwise) should be worn properly when in public. You are representing Mount Dora High School and the work of many members that have come before you.
- Profanity, singing, chanting, horseplay, and screaming are prohibited on the bus - all bus rules apply. Tape players, CD players, or radios WITHOUT HEADPHONES will not be allowed on the buses.
- Students may not change buses without permission. Roll will be checked on each bus before departure.
- All students must travel to and from performances on buses, not in personal cars. Any student who needs to depart a performance with his or her parent or guardian should submit a request signed by a parent or guardian at least three days in advance of the performance. If approved, the parent or guardian must appear to pick up the student from the Director.
- No drinking or eating will be permitted except when designated by the Director.
- Students are responsible for their own equipment, instruments, and music. The Pit Crew will load the equipment truck or buses as necessary.
- Students will receive an itinerary of activities for all major trips. Students are responsible for knowing departure times and being ready on time.
- Any illness or injury should be reported to the head chaperone and Director immediately, no matter how unimportant it may seem.
- Upon arrival at our destination, students should remain seated until instructed to unload by the officer or chaperone in charge.

- Conduct of students in public establishments (restaurants, etc.) should be subdued and courteous.

Code of Conduct:

Students are responsible for the reading of and adherence to the Lake County Schools Code of Student Conduct.

- Please respect both personal property and the property of the Band Program.
- Rude and/or socially unacceptable behavior as defined by the Director will not be tolerated on the Mount Dora campus or during Band activities off campus.
- Public Displays of Affection (PDAs) will not be tolerated while on Band activities.

XI. Band Staff and Officers:

Director of Bands: Mr. Michael Uhrich

Percussion Instructor/visual caption: Christ Smith

Student Officer Position Descriptions:

Band Colonel: The Band Colonels are the highest student officer positions in the Band Program. These students will work hand-in-hand with the Band Staff in making key decisions including formulating policies. These students will also be the head of the student council of officers and run meetings of the student council of officers in conjunction with the band staff.

Field Commanders: The field commanders are Band Colonels who conduct the Mount Dora Marching Canes. They call commands, conduct the field shows, conduct the music in the stands, and are responsible for the rehearsal and performance etiquette of the Mount Dora Marching Canes during rehearsals and performances.

Captains: The Captains are assigned in each of the major sections of the Band including: Woodwinds, Brass, Percussion, and Guard. They will oversee the daily operation of their sections including aiding in

music rehearsals, disciplining in rehearsals and performances, and communications to and from their section with the Band Staff.

Lieutenants: The Lieutenants are responsible for the behind-the-scenes operation of the Band Program. They directly assist the Band Staff and Band Colonels in taking attendance, overseeing logistics, and sorting and distributing music.

Sergeants: The Sergeants are assigned in each of the smaller sections of the band including: Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone, Trumpet, Middle Brass, Low Brass, Percussion, and Guard. Some sections may have more than one Sergeant depending on the size of their respective sections. Their main function is to act as an extension of the captains in the daily operation of their individual sections.

Service Positions: The responsibilities of the Logistics team include: Loading and unloading equipment at various venues, maintaining the facility, lining the practice field, getting water for rehearsals, and other logistical functions. The responsibility of the Administrative team is to sort and distribute music, make copies as necessary, organize the Music Library, and other music organization related functions. The added responsibility of the Chaplain is to act as a student peer counselor to any members of the band needing emotional or spiritual guidance.

Band Boosters

The purpose of the Mount Dora High School Band Boosters is to raise money and coordinate parent volunteers to support our Band Program. The Boosters are empowered to address the needs of the band and work with the Band Director to meet these needs. They will provide, acquire, own, buy, sell trade, rent, lease, or otherwise deal with musical instruments, uniforms, written music, transportation, instructional materials and personnel, and other related services for the Mount Dora High School Band Program. They will also solicit and accept gifts of money or property, conduct sales of lawful merchandise, perform various and assorted services for hire, and conduct any other legal fundraising activities. All profits from those activities shall be paid into the Band Boosters general treasury for the above stated purpose to be used at the discretion of the Band Director. The voting membership shall consist exclusively of the parents or legal guardians of participating students of the Mount Dora High School Band Program.

Volunteer Committee:

The Volunteer Committee is made up of parents who volunteer to coordinate efforts to gain as many other parent volunteers as possible and place them in the right committees to get our goals accomplished.

Fundraising Committee:

The Fundraising Committee is made up parents who volunteer to brainstorm about possible fundraising ideas, and then coordinate the effort to accomplish those activities.

Concessions Committee:

The Concessions Committee is made up parents who volunteer to prepare and sell food and food-related items at home football games, and various other school and community events.

Uniform Committee:

The Uniform Committee is made up parents who volunteer to inventory the uniforms, fit our students with uniforms, and make any alterations to the uniforms as needed.

Logistics Committee:

The Logistics Committee is made up parents who volunteer to help with the transportation of our band equipment to various events.

Band Awards

John Philip Sousa Award: This is the pinnacle of achievement for high school band students. Created in 1955, the award honors the top student in a high school band and recognizes superior musicianship and outstanding dedication. It was developed with the cooperation of Helen Sousa Albert and Priscilla Sousa, daughters of the famous composer and bandmaster.

National School Marching Band Award: The National School Marching Award was introduced in 2005 to recognize outstanding contributions and dedication of student leaders whose example inspires others, especially in the marching idiom.

Louis Armstrong Jazz Band Award: The highest achievement for high school jazz band since 1974, the Armstrong Award honors an outstanding jazz student. The award was created with the approval of Armstrong's widow, Lucille Armstrong,

Semper Fidelis Award: This award is given to a high school musician that embodies many virtues that the United States Marine Corps admires. The high school musician must display traits that Marines consider essential to being a good leader: endurance, knowledge, unselfishness, dependability, enthusiasm, and loyalty. The tradition surrounding this award dates back to the days of John Philip Sousa and his role in making the Marine Corps Band the premiere musical unit it is today - The President's Own.

Patrick S. Gilmore Band Award: Introduced in 1994 in honor of the legendary 19th-century bandmaster and impresario, Patrick Gilmore (1829-1892), the award honors the musicianship and dedication of high school band students. It is a runner-up to the Sousa Award.

Woody Herman Jazz Band Award: Created in 1988, shortly after Herman's death, the award honors an outstanding jazz student. It is a runner-up to the Armstrong Award.

Director's Award for Band: This award is given to honor band students (up to 4) for their outstanding service to the Mount Dora High School Band Program.

Most Outstanding Woodwind, Brass, Percussion, and Guard: This award is given to the students in each class who have been shining examples in their academics, leadership, character, and especially musicianship.

Most Improved 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th Graders: This award is given to the students in each class who have shown vast improvements in their academics, leadership, character, and especially musicianship.

Band Handbook Receipt Form:

I acknowledge that I have received a copy of the Band Handbook. I also understand that I am responsible for all information contained inside. I understand it is my responsibility to keep track of dates listed, while I also understand that if a date or time for an event changes with proper notification, I will still be responsible for attendance. I will uphold the ideals and beliefs of the Mount Dora High School Band Program as outlined in this handbook.

_____ Student Signature
Date

I acknowledge that I Have received a copy of the Band Handbook. I also understand that I am responsible for all information contained inside. I understand it is my responsibility to keep track of dates listed, while I also understand that if a date or time for an event changes with at least two weeks notification, I will still be responsible for aiding in getting my student to and from the given event. I also understand that I am financially responsible for my student s participation in the band program. Lastly, I understand that my student s grade depends on attendance and participation in after school activities with the band.

_____ Guardian Signature
Date

_____ Guardian Signature
Date

_____ Witness Signature
Date

_____ Director Signature
Date