

MILLARD NORTH MUSTANG BAND FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS

What is the Band Boosters Association?

The Boosters are a group of dedicated volunteers who are the support system for the Millard North Band and its directors. We have many functions that help to keep band events running smoothly. It takes the help of many to do what we do and there is nothing more rewarding. Showing your support to your student as well as to the band directors is invaluable and every single thing we do is met with sincere appreciation. Don't be afraid to get involved. There's not one person who hasn't been the new kid on the block so we all understand if you are unsure about what to do or how to get involved. Don't be shy ...just come on up to any of us and ask anything you'd like. We are always glad to help you get acclimated into this amazing program.

Why are there dues and what is the money used for?

Dues are an important source of funds used to assist our band program. All money received is used to sponsor the band. We provide many things for the students during the year such as the Pool Party, After State Celebration, Pizza Party for Incoming 8th Graders, After Prom Party, and Scholarships for Seniors, just to mention a few. These events are outside of what Millard Public Schools provides. In addition, we provide the band with special needs, such as new tympani drums, transportation of their luggage and equipment to travel destinations every few years and fees to send our Drum Majors to Drum Major Camp. We are a 501C3 corporation, so donations are tax deductible!

Can I attend a Boosters meeting, even though I am not on a committee?

Sure! Anyone who wishes to attend is always welcome. We discuss old business, new business and receive valuable updates from the band director(s) and each committee chairperson. Meeting times are posted on the Boosters section of the Millard North Band site. The meetings are the BEST way to get all the information on upcoming events and issues. We strongly encourage your attendance.

What can I volunteer for?

The Band Boosters have many, many opportunities for you to share your time and talents. It doesn't matter if you have 20 minutes or unlimited time - we are glad to have all the help we can get! There are always opportunities to volunteer for help, cookie bakers for band trips, bus chaperones, refreshment servers for after concerts, annual committee chairs who manage a full year's volunteer position, and much more! For a list of Booster chair positions, visit the Boosters section of our website

What are marching dress codes?

All students are assigned a uniform and buy shoes which are very valuable. EACH STUDENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR UNIFORM AND SHOES. In addition, the following applies to Marching parades and competitions:

- Make-up: When in uniform, **no** make-up may be worn, (including foundation).
- Hair: Hair cannot be worn "down." All shoulder length and longer hair (male and female) must be pinned up in such a way that it will fit under the uniform hat.
- Socks: Black knee-length athletic socks (both men and women) are required. No thin dress socks are allowed.
- Uniforms: Must be clean and wrinkle-free. Wrinkled uniforms are not allowed as the band is judged on appearance as well as technical merit.
- Undergarments: Black tee-shirts and boxers or running-type shorts are to be worn underneath the uniform. As marching weather gets colder, they may layer and wear "long-johns" under the above clothes if they need to.

NOTE: Please encourage your student to keep all his/her marching band attire together in the uniform bag at all times. This should include socks, black Drillmaster shoes, clean black t-shirt and shorts, hair ties, etc. Properly hanging the uniform after each performance is paramount and will prevent any damage from being done.

What is the " Gold Card Blitz"?

The Gold Card Blitz is the annual fundraiser for the band. Typically, it is the only fundraiser during the year, unless it is a travel year (out-of-state marching in places like Florida and California) or the director's determine that it is needed. The Gold Card Blitz typically occurs during band camp. Students are given cards to sell that provide discounts to area restaurants, etc., to the purchaser.

What is "Premier Night?"

Premier Night is your first chance to see the results of your student's hard work over the summer. We have a pot luck dinner to start which is followed by a brief meeting that introduces the Boosters organization. During the pot luck, you can spend time getting to know everyone as well as purchase your Spirit wear (buttons, clothing, jackets, etc.) and sign up for volunteer opportunities. The evening is topped off by the season's first performance of the freshman and varsity bands. Your student will most likely be asked to wear blue (denim) shorts and their pep band shirt (which is ordered earlier in the summer). If your student has not yet received their pep band shirt, they can wear a similar color blue (royal blue) polo type shirt. You will have the chance to see first hand what the Boosters do and the opportunity to ask questions regarding the issues that most concern you. It's a great evening and we guarantee you will leave there full of pride for your student.

What happens at parades and competitions?

Both parades and competitions are very exciting! Most freshmen do not march in the Varsity competitions, however, they DO march in all the parades. Parents proudly wear their spirit wear (or at least blue) to cheer on the band. Millard North has a very active contingent of parents who sit together in groups to cheer on the band.

Competitions involve many regional high schools and last several hours. Schedules for performance are usually known in advance and are also published on the website and at the competitions. Bands receive ratings (1, 2, 3, etc.) for quality of performance and are judged by professional music educators from the Midwest. Awards ceremonies are held at the conclusion of the event and we strongly encourage you to stay for that. Its lots of fun and very exciting, too!

Our band typically participates in at least one parade each year. It's a thrill and an honor to be there cheering them on as they walk by. Again, wear your blue, picture buttons, etc. to show your spirit and support. Check the website to see where parents will be sitting and for directions. It's fun having us all together and the students absolutely love it!

Transportation for all events is not provided to parents or "spectators." If your student is marching in a competition or parade, they will be bussed to each and every parade/competition in which they will perform with the exception of the Millard Days parade.

Should my freshman attend the Varsity Band competitions?

Their attendance is strongly encouraged. This provides them an opportunity to see, first hand, what competitions are all about and to provide support and encouragement to the Varsity band during their show. It's a fantastic experience and helps them to bond more with the older Varsity band students. Each freshmen student will be responsible for his/her own transportation to the event. The website will provide detailed information and directions for each competition.

Where can I watch my student march at the football games, and when should I arrive?

Home football games are held at Buell Stadium at Millard South High School. The more support for our marching band, the better! The marching band performs their field show during every half-time at all home football games, and also performs the National Anthem at pre-game. Most parents of band students sit directly behind the band section. This is a great way to get to know other band families and to cheer collectively for our great marching band. Be sure to wear your blue, picture buttons, etc. The Band Directors will let students know when they should arrive for each game.

Does the band travel?

Yes, the band will travel to local competitions, such as competitions in Lincoln, Nebraska and also to neighboring states at the Directors' discretion. In addition, major band trips (such as the recent trip to Disneyworld, Universal Studios and Epcot) are scheduled every few years.

What is the "Pit Crew?"

This refers to the 'unsung heroes' who load and unload the band equipment truck for every home football game, competition and band trip. They include the truck driver and all of the loading assistants who carry the "pit gear" (e.g. front line drums, bells, marimbas, kettle drums, etc.) onto the field, and also band instruments to marching trips. Many volunteers are always needed as "many helpers make lighter work." See our website for pit crew volunteer opportunities

What is the "After-State Celebration?"

This is an annual party held at for the entire band after the last marching competition of the season. The last competition is usually the NSBA State competition and is held toward the end of October. After competing, the entire band will be invited to the celebration. As with every other event, more specific details will be posted on the website as soon as it becomes available.

What is the "Pep Band?"

Pep Band is a subset of the band which performs at Millard North sporting events such as basketball games, etc. Pep Band is a **mandatory** activity. The band directors will divide all band students in to two groups, blue and silver. A schedule will be posted on the website advising which group will play at a particular game. In case your student forgets, the website also lists the students belonging to each respective band. If your student cannot attend, they are **required** to find a replacement. The website will note whether or not transportation will be provided to the event, if it is to be held away from Millard North High School.

What do students wear for Pep Band performances at games?

Subject to the band director's instructions, but typically they wear their blue pep band shirts (blue short sleeve shirts with embroidered band logo and name)

What is the "Jazz Band?"

There are two jazz ensembles at Millard North; Jazz 1 and Jazz 2. Both bands perform a variety of jazz (big band) music and compete in contests separate from the Concert, Marching Band, Wind Ensemble and Symphonic band units. In addition, they both perform for the annual "Big Band Dance". Contests are hosted by local schools, U.N.O., and other institutions. Acceptance to the jazz bands is through yearly auditions. Jazz band begins after the marching season ends. They rehearse in the morning before school.

What is the Wind Ensemble/Symphonic Band/Concert Band?

Of the three ensemble bands (concert, symphonic, and wind) the Wind Ensemble is the most difficult band to audition into and consists of very challenging music. (Most younger students start in the concert band, but depending on their level of playing at the audition, can be placed in the more difficult Symphonic Band, or most competitive and challenging Wind Ensemble).

What is a Challenge?

All students have the right to "challenge" another student to rise to a higher 'chair' which represents their level of playing. For example, a 'third chair drummer' can challenge the second chair drummer. They compete by reading music with the director's judging the quality of playing. The winner of the challenge is awarded the higher "chair."

For Band Booster or general band questions, contact John Fray at (402) 758-0329.