

Millard North High School Band Handbook

Mr. Larry Rathbun, Director of Bands
Mrs. Catherine Keiser, Assistant Director of Bands

Welcome to the Millard North High School Band! We are pleased to have you as a part of our exciting organization, and we hope you will give your utmost in helping us build upon one of Nebraska's finest musical programs. It is necessary for us to have certain written policies governing our members, and by presenting these policies in this handbook, many unnecessary misunderstandings can be avoided.

The band program at Millard North High School forms a vital and important part of the student's high school life. This group represents a large, colorful, visible and highly disciplined segment of the school organization.

School life, and many of the traditions of the school, would seem dull without the presence of the high school band. The bands appearances at sporting events, concerts, parades, contests, as well as at community events, adds a great deal of color and life to Millard North High School.

The main emphasis of the band program is on **musicianship** and **pride of accomplishment**, followed closely by **citizenship, tradition, morale, spirit** and **loyalty**. It is the pride of a job well done, and the accomplishments achieved that make sacrifices worthwhile. It is possible, by setting your schedule in a reasonable manner, to have a highly successful band career and still maintain high scholastic goals. The success of the organization will lead to the success of the individual and vice versa.

The success of the program depends a lot on one simple factor...**You!** By striving to reach our goals and by upholding the philosophies and guidelines of the MNHS band department, we can achieve success.

GOALS

1. To be regular and prompt in attendance.
2. To have respect for yourself and others.
3. To be honest.
4. To cooperate with fellow band members and share responsibilities and privileges with them.
5. To contribute positively to your music education and to the band by the best use of your talents at all times.
6. To strive constantly to improve yourself musically.
7. To grow personally through your experience in music.
8. To be proud of yourself, your school and your band.

The MNHS Band is a group of people working hard to achieve common goals. At all times, we must work **TOGETHER** to be "the best we can be"! The only thing that is asked of you at all times, is to do the best that you can. Ask yourself, "Did I do a better job today, than what I did yesterday?"

BAND PERSONNEL AND DUTIES

The Band Director (Mr. Rathbun) is in charge of the band program. His duties are to direct, supervise, coordinate, set goals, maintain the curriculum and budget and communicate these activities to the administration, students and parents in the community. The assistant band director

(Mrs. Keiser) will collaborate with the director in assigned duties to facilitate reaching the goals set forth for the band. Specific duties will include directing the symphonic band and assisting with the wind ensemble and concert band, coordinating the solo and ensemble program and assisting with other aspects of the band program.

The color guard Instructor (Stephanie Mendenhall) will coordinate and supervise the color guard activities with the band directors, attend all practices, assist in the selection of uniforms and choreography. The color guard Instructor will supervise the audition process and help with communication duties in the band. The drum line Instructor (Ben Samson) will coach the drum line and assist with the selection and evaluation of personnel, arrangements of the percussion music and maintenance of equipment.

The **band leadership team** shall consist of drum majors, and students who have either been appointed by the band directors, or who have applied for inclusion as a member of the team. The leadership team will work closely with the directors to enhance communication and efficiency of the band program. They will meet as needed to help with any aspect of the band program.

Leadership team members are to help fellow band students perform their music and marching skills to the best of their abilities. These individuals must display a high level of musicianship and have the ability to lead their section while maintaining a positive rapport. **Section leaders** are responsible for music check-offs, sectionals, record keeping, attendance, and uniform inspections within their sections.

Our **drum majors** are in charge of the band during parade, field, or pep band performances. They are expected to demonstrate leadership skills at all times, when in charge of any performing ensemble. They are expected to use intelligence and common sense to maintain control and deal with fellow band members in a confident, tactful, fair and authoritative manner.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance at regularly scheduled rehearsals and performances is required for membership in the band program. The attendance policies as stated in this handbook, will be strictly adhered to. Absences are permitted in the event of personal illness, weddings in the immediate family, or unavoidable emergencies. Remember to call the band office to notify us of unexpected absences **before** the event. The directors have the final discretion in judging whether absences are excused or unexcused. Failure to appear at a scheduled practice/performance without proper notification may result in suspension from the performing group and/or a failing grade for the grading period. A performance cannot be made up by writing a report, or doing some extra assignment. All students depend on each other, in order to reach said goals, and be successful throughout the season.

ATHLETIC CONFLICTS WITH MARCHING BAND CONTESTS

As in the past, we will make every effort to try and work out the conflicts with the athletic schedules. **HOWEVER**, you should understand that freshman, junior varsity and non-starting varsity players will be marching with the band if there are unworkable conflicts, **as marching band is a varsity activity.** Starting varsity player conflicts will be handled on an individual basis with Mr. Rathbun, the coaches involved, and Mrs. Morrissey. **Please inform Mr. Rathbun if you are involved in any potential athletic conflicts and let your coaches know of your conflicts with band contests well in advance.**

During the marching season, early-morning rehearsals begin at 6:45a.m. (Tuesday through Friday). These rehearsals are necessary for preparation for performances and contests. At football games, cheerleaders and dance squad members will be excused from pre-game performances. For basketball games, sub-varsity players will join the band at the completion of their games, unless otherwise excused by the director.

TARDIES

The most important factor concerning attendance is that you are **HERE ON TIME!** This means that you should have your instrument out and **ready to play** and be on the practice field **before the start of rehearsal**. Do not waste the time of the band by being late. With our limited rehearsal time we need to make the most of every minute. **You are allowed 3 tardies during marching season. This means late for rehearsal for ANY reason. On the fourth tardy, you will spend 30 minutes after school on the day of the infraction or the following day. Failure to do so will result in referral to the administration. Regular school tardy policy will be followed following marching season.**

RESPONSIBILITY TO OURSELVES

We owe ourselves the benefit of proper equipment and proper lessons. Whenever possible, you should avail yourselves of the best possible instrument you can afford and endeavor to take private lessons. **YOU have the primary responsibility for learning and contributing your talent to the group.**

RESPONSIBILITY TO THE SCHOOL

The school district provides the necessary setting and facilitates for our rehearsals and performances, and purchases some of the larger instruments and needed equipment. We then have the obligation to provide the best possible performance for the school and the patrons of the district. This means that **if the instrument you are using is owned by the school, you are willing to maintain it at all times.**

Millard North High School provides those instruments that are too expensive for students to purchase individually, and are needed for a balanced instrumentation, such as tubas, bass clarinets, baritones, French horns, and certain percussion instruments. These instruments may be rented from Millard Public Schools for a nominal fee of \$75.00 per year, payable at the beginning of the school year. Repairs beyond normal wear of the instrument are the students' responsibility.

RESPONSIBILITY TO MUSIC AS AN ART FORM

The performing arts have always been a vital part of our society. YOU have been blessed with a very special talent. You now have the obligation and responsibility to use that talent for the betterment of our community, and for the development of yourself as an individual.

RESPONSIBILITY TO EACH OTHER

Getting along with each other in our complex society is indeed a difficult task all by itself. You have the obligation and responsibility to respect the rights of others. Anti-social behavior will only breed the same in others and bring unwanted trouble. Excessive talking, rumor, bad manners, etc. are all examples of anti-social behavior. **Respect the rights of others, both in and out of uniform, and treat them as you wish to be treated.**

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

While we receive most of our financial support through the school district, we need to supplement this money through fund raising projects of our own. We have a very active and supportive band parent organization. They carry out fundraising projects to support our entire instrumental music department. This group meets monthly, and we encourage all parents of band students to participate in this organization. The band members are responsible for one to two major fund raising projects each year. More fund raising projects will be available on our trip year. It is reasonable to expect each member to participate equally in these projects to help better the band program and facilities.

Millard North High School Band Fund Raising Rationale

In order to provide extended opportunities to students in the MNHS band program which are not part of the curriculum (school day), it is necessary for band members to participate in fund raising projects through out the year. Monies generated through these projects are generally deposited in to the band "Activity Fund." Funds in this account are used for expenditures not covered by the building budget set aside for the band program (varies from year to year). Such items include, but are not limited to clinician/judges expenses, percussion instructor(s), for marching band, equipment, music (for all ensembles), entry fees for marching band contests, concert band festivals, jazz band contests, and solo/ensemble participation, marching band drill and/or special musical arrangements.

Fund raising opportunities are decided by music department and/or band department staff members, along with input from band students. Although it is not the purpose of the fund raising activities to raise money primarily for band trip purposes, it is recognized by the band directors that some monies from these events will be earmarked for this purpose. Fund raising money generated through booster – led activities will be directed to areas approved by the band booster executive board through the budgeting process. It should be noted that all fund raising activities that support the MNHS band shall be cleared through the band directors.

Because each student is responsible for meeting his/her financial obligations for band trips, individual student accounts are established through the MNHS band boosters. Fund raising money deposited in student accounts has been raised under the guise of the Millard North High School band and shall be used to support the student while they are involved in the band program. Upon graduation or when no longer participating in band, unused money will not be refunded to the student. However, unused individual account money may be transferred to a sibling who is involved in the band program, or the money will be transferred to the band activity account.

In a students senior year, account money may be used to help pay for a "musical expense," relating to the students' involvement in the MNHS band – such as private lesson expense, instrument needs (new mouthpiece, mutes, etc.), sheet music or other musical items. A receipt will be presented for these expenses and reimbursement will be made by the band booster treasurer.

PERCUSSION POLICIES

For marching band: Millard North High School will provide one new flam head for each snare drum. Any additional heads will be paid for by the individual player. Bass drums and tenors will be equipped with adequate heads, and each player will be issued one pair of practice beaters, and one pair of performance beaters. Players are responsible for lost or damaged equipment, and will be billed for the same. Cymbal players will be provided with adequate straps and they are responsible for their cymbals. Damaged or lost cymbals will be billed to the individual player. Bass drums and tenors will

be issued stadium hardware. Students are responsible for purchasing their own stick bags, drum sticks, and their own concert band mallets.

PURPOSE OF THE MNHS BAND

- To provide young people with an experience in music that is both enjoyable and educational.
- To provide a sophisticated, “state-of-the-art” musical experience for high school band students.
- To serve as a vehicle for training of future performers.
- To provide an entertainment medium for diverse audiences by exploring and perfecting the latest techniques for aural and visual interpretation of music on the performance field.
- To serve as musical ambassadors for the school and school music programs.

GENERAL POLICIES FOR SPECIAL PROBLEMS

The Millard North High School administration and band directors expect our students involved in activities to represent us well, as they are representing their school, themselves and community in all they do. **The code of conduct in the Parent/Student Guidelines should be followed by all participating students.**

The student should consult the Parent/Student Guidelines to be certain of their eligibility status. It is strongly recommended that any student involved in any incident which could jeopardize their privilege to participate should notify the sponsor and administration as soon as possible. Students need to pass 20 academic credits each semester to remain eligible for participation in band.

TOBACCO, ALCOHOL, AND ILLEGAL DRUGS

School policy and state law clearly forbid the use or possession of these substances. Penalties include suspension from school. Anyone found using, under the influence of, or in possession of alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drugs will be subject to terms found in the student handbook.

CANDY, GUM, SODA, SNACKS, ETC.

At no time before, during, or after the rehearsal will these items be permitted in the band room unless specified. This includes the fine arts hallway and practice rooms. This area must maintain a clean, managed look at all times.

PLAYING YOUR INSTRUMENT IN THE STANDS AT ATHLETIC EVENTS

All performances will be done in an orderly manner. You are not permitted to play another students' instrument at any time. All playing will be done as a group.

REFRESHMENT PERIOD

Band students are usually permitted a portion of each event where they may obtain refreshments and use the rest rooms. This period will be designated at each event.

ASSEMBLING TO PERFORM

The band will assemble together and move in an orderly manner (march when permitted) to the designated area.

BUS AND TRAVEL REQUIREMENTS

When buses are provided, all members will ride the bus both ways. This can be adjusted only **if the student's parent/guardian has completed the needed alternate travel permission forms, required by the Millard Public Schools.** During marching season, students will sign up for their bus before the first trip and will ride on the same bus for each activity. Bus assignments for other trips will be assigned prior to the trip.

- A. Students will not board buses until instructed to do so. Students will remain on the bus and stay seated until instructed otherwise.
- B. Keep all noise to a minimum. **RADIO AND CD PLAYERS WILL BE ALLOWED ONLY IF THEY ARE USED WITH HEADPHONES.** Stop ALL talking at railroad crossings.
- C. Keep everything in inside the windows at all times!
- D. Keep the buses clean. No glass containers or sunflower seeds. There will be trash bags for your use on each bus. Clean your area around your seat before exiting the bus.
- E. Loud, boisterous behavior or profane language will NOT be tolerated at any time.
- F. Respect the decisions of the sponsors. They have received specific instructions from the directors.
- G. Departure times are just that. Schedules have been organized with little spare time. If you are late, you may be left.

CONCERTS

Concert performances are scheduled at Millard North as an extension of the regular classroom. Part of the learning process includes live performance. We normally perform 3 or 4 concert performances at the high school and occasional performances at the feeder schools or other venues. Call time for concerts is normally 30-45 minutes prior to the concert. Plan accordingly to be dressed in concert attire, have your needed instrument and all accessories, and be in your chair at call time. We will warm-up, tune and make additional announcements at that time.

Most concerts will last approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes and the students are expected to be present for the entire program. We also encourage the audience to be courteous to all of the students performing on the program by staying for the entire concert.

Proper concert etiquette is expected of the entire audience. You should only enter or exit between musical selections, so as not to disturb those listening or performing. Only use cameras between musical selections, so the flash or winders do not distract the performers. Ringers on cell phones and pagers should be turned off. Applause is appropriate at the end of concert pieces or the end of an entire multi-movement work. Applause for soloists is appropriate for jazz and marching band solos, but not in symphonic works until their recognition at the end of the piece.

PUBLIC DISPLAY OF AFFECTION

Public Display of Affection or even the current trend defined as sexual harassment is simply in bad social and moral taste and is not permitted. The band directors have absolute authority on the definition of what is permitted.

UNIFORMS

A uniform will be checked out to each student before the marching season and checked in at the conclusion of the school year. Do not trade part of the uniform without prior permission from the director or a member of the band booster uniform committee. Students shall be responsible for the

replacement of any lost or damaged part of their uniform. Band students are not allowed in the uniform room without director approval. **Students are to check in uniforms and uniform parts that they were issued.** Uniforms are to be kept at home by students. Do not leave them in the trunk of your car, on the floor of your bedroom, etc.

Your uniform should always be placed on a heavy wooden hanger to help maintain its shape. If alterations need to be made on the uniform, **DO NOT CUT MATERIAL FROM IT!** or you will be charged for the damage. **Alterations should be done by a member of the booster uniform committee.** The uniform will be worn correctly at all times. No jewelry will be worn with the uniform at any time. Any student whose hair goes below the bottom of the earlobe will be expected to tie their hair up under their shako. **Band shoes should be stored at home until game day or performance day. Label the tongue of your shoes with your name.**

Uniform inspections will be held prior to each performance. If your uniform is incorrect in any way or not properly cared for, you will be sent to the director and may not be allowed to perform. Fines will be assessed for students who forget parts of their uniforms. **Hats of any kind, other than your band shako may not be worn in the stands at football games, at contests or any other time you are in full uniform.** When in uniform, the policy is either all of the uniform is on, or none of the uniform is on. The directors will keep you informed. Students are not allowed to remove jackets unless taking the entire uniform off. We want to keep a clean, positive image in the eyes of others.

MUSIC

Each student has been issued a folder of marching music. The folder and music are the responsibility of the student. Concert band and jazz band folders may be checked out and taken home. Lost concert and jazz music will be paid for at replacement cost by the individual who misplaced the music. Solos and chamber music may be checked out through the music library. Lost or damaged music will be replaced by the student.

LESSONS

Every student has access to lessons through out the school year. Lessons will be given at specified periods during and after the school day by the directors. Students may come in for lessons during study halls or open periods, or at other times during the day when cleared with teachers. A list of private instructors in the Omaha area is available from Mr. Rathbun or Mrs. Keiser. There are many outstanding instructors through out this area. Although it is not a requirement of students to study privately in order to be a member of the leadership team or top performing ensembles, naturally, those who do study privately tend to develop their playing skills at a greater rate than those students who don't study privately.

PRIMARY PERFORMING ENSEMBLES

WIND ENSEMBLE, SYMPHONIC BAND AND CONCERT BAND

Length of course: 1 year
Prerequisite: Previous successful instrumental experience or director's permission. Auditions are necessary for placement.

PHILOSOPHY

To provide instruction to help each student develop their aesthetic potential and develop a sense of musical heritage. To give students a source of life-long enjoyment and an outlet for their creativity

and self-expression. To help students understand their interrelationships with others. To help students realize that life is not complete only with material objects, but subjective objects, like the love of music, as well. Band should contribute to a student's sense of pride, belonging, and give them a more balanced education.

OBJECTIVES

- To allow each student to make music alone and in a group.
- To be able to create music
- To be able to use the vocabulary and notation of music.
- To be able to perform correctly on their instrument.
- To be able to respond to music aesthetically, intellectually, and emotionally.
- To be able to continue their musical involvement outside of school.
- To become acquainted with a wide variety of musical styles.
- To develop a feeling of support for community musical activities.
- To develop individual leadership and teamwork skills.

TEXTBOOK-MATERIALS

The materials used in band will include music from marching, pep, concert, chamber, and solo instrumental literature. Musical selections in our musical library covers important literature from the modern era of music. A varied selection of method books and individual instruction books are also used in individual and group activities.

COURSE OUTLINE

First Quarter:

- Prepare and present halftime and/or pre-game shows at home football games.
- Participate in 1 or more parades.
- Participate in 1 or more field show competitions
- Prepare individuals for All-State Band auditions and other honor bands
- Prepare and provide pep band spirit at selected events and pep rallies.
- Prepare students for concert band/symphonic band chair placements

Second Quarter:

- Prepare and present a winter concert.
- Prepare individuals for Honor Band auditions
- Study and test scales and other music skills.
- Audition and placement for Concert Bands.
- Provide support at football and volleyball playoff finals.
- Prepare and provide band spirit at selected home basketball games.

Third Quarter:

- Prepare and present at least two concert programs
- Provide continued support at basketball games and tournament finals.
- Prepare and present solos and ensembles for Elkhorn Band Olympics.
- Study and Test scales and other music skills.

Fourth Quarter:

- Prepare Concert Band for Bellevue West Concert Band Festival
- Prepare Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble for NSBA State Concert Band Festival and other concert band festivals.
- Prepare ensembles and soloists for District Music Contest.
- Perform at District Music Contest
- Prepare and perform a Spring Music Department concert.
- Study and test scales and other music skills.

AREAS OF EVALUATION

- Attendance and participation
 - Attitude and effort
 - Performances
 - Playing exams
 - Private lessons
 - Student and teacher evaluations.
- Students are required to be involved with all major band activities. If participation is impossible the student may be assigned a specific project. The director, administration, and student will be notified if a special project is necessary.
 - Students are required to participate in private lessons with the instructor as needed.
 - During the first nine weeks, students are required to attend early-morning rehearsals for marching band from 6:45 – 7:55 a.m., Tuesday through Friday. Freshmen band students will attend early-morning rehearsals as needed to prepare for parades and pre-game performances.
 - **All students involved with the varsity marching band must be registered for band 1st hour during first semester. Exceptions will be granted for orchestra students who are members of the front line. (must be registered for orchestra). Baton Twirlers will be involved in select performances of the marching band through the first nine weeks. Students interested in twirling for the band must be a member in good standing of the MNHS color guard or band (and are registered for band).**

JAZZ BAND (Non-Curricular Course)

Length of course: 3 quarters

Level: All

Prerequisite: Teacher permission and audition as per instrumentation needs. Member of one of the concert bands, except for keyboard, bass and guitar

PHILOSOPHY

To provide students another area of instrumental literature to understand, perform, and enjoy. To expose students to a continuing source of musical involvement. To expose students to the only true American art form. To provide an opportunity for creativity through improvisation. To acknowledge the importance of these public relations performing groups.

OBJECTIVES

- To develop advanced performing skills in a unique musical medium.
- To entertain at school and community functions.
- To develop to ability to improvise
- To expose the students to the professional life of a musician.
- To study and perform various styles of jazz music.

MATERIALS

Music will be selected from arrangements available for the basic Big Band instrumentation. We will also use recording examples and lead sheets to investigate the styles of the major improvisational and commercial performers.

COURSE OUTLINE

Two jazz band classes will meet before school (7:00 a.m. to 7:50 a.m.) two to three days per week. Auditions will take place toward the end of marching band season. These groups will perform at selected school and community concerts and upon request. They will also compete at local and regional jazz band festivals. A spring tour of Millard schools will aid in the promotion of music at MNHS and give students a chance to perform.

AREAS OF EVALUATION

- Attendance and participation
- Performance
- Attitude/effort
- Student/Teacher evaluation.

CONCERT BANDS

Immediately after the conclusion of marching season, the concert bands are formed. Wind Ensemble rehearses the first period of the day during second semester and plays many concerts during the school year. They also perform at the district music contest and accept invitations to play for special occasions that may occur during the school year. Symphonic Band rehearses second period during second semester and plays many concerts during the school year. Students will have the opportunity to participate in festivals and contests in both solo/ensemble and large group settings. The Symphonic Band and Concert Band will participate in the Bellevue West High School Second Concert Band Festival in the spring.

JAZZ BAND

Two jazz bands rehearse two to three times weekly, before school from 7:00 a.m. to 7:50 a.m. They play mainly big band jazz, and modern rock instrumental music. The bands will present three concerts, a Big Band Swing Dance and will participate in various jazz festivals. Improvisation skills will also be explored and developed. Membership in jazz band will be by audition. You must be in a concert band to be involved in jazz band, with the exception of keyboard, bass, and guitar players.

PEP BAND

Our pep band performs at pep rallies, many events during the school sports season and other activities decided on by the band directors. Attendance at these performances is required, as it is a part of the band curriculum. Often times our athletic teams are involved in post-season contests. A pep band will travel to finals of district and all state tournament games. Your attendance at these events is strongly encouraged, and extra credit towards your grade will be given to those students participating. The pep band uniform will consist of blue band polo shirt and jeans. Pep band assignments will be posted after Thanksgiving break.

OTHER ENSEMBLES

There are many other ensembles in the band, such as brass choir, woodwind quintet, trios, duets, solos, etc. These will be organized sometime during the year, and some of these groups will perform at the Elkhorn Band Olympics and/or District Music Contest in the spring.

CHALLENGES AND SEATING PLACEMENT

Students will audition for a panel of judges and will be placed in either Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band or Concert Band at the conclusion of the marching season and will be assigned a specific seating placement. Each student is given the opportunity to challenge within their section. This will happen at the end of the first semester. First chair players in the Concert Band then will have the option of challenging last chair players in the Symphonic Band. First Chair players in Symphonic Band will have the option of challenging last chair players in Wind Ensemble. If a person fails to appear for their challenge, they will forfeit the challenge. Challenges may involve scales, sight-reading and prepared music. Criteria for judging challenges will be the same as the initial audition and will include: tone quality, technique, musicianship and number of technical errors. During second semester, Wind Ensemble rehearses first period, Symphonic Band rehearses second period and Concert Band rehearses seventh period.

GRADING SYSTEM

The following grading system will be used for the Millard North High School Band:

A= 93-100 B= 85-92 C= 77-84 D= 69-76 F= below 69

A very important item that needs to be understood is that Band is treated as an **ACADEMIC CLASS**. The class tests (performances) have a very high degree of visibility. In reality, the performances become the evaluations of how well the groups are achieving and how the individual is progressing. Along with the attendance factor and a willingness to learn, the general attitude of the student as well as their actual performance level is all considered when establishing and assigning a grade. The main issue is that **BAND IS NOT AN EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITY OR CLUB** even though most performances are not confined to the school day. The most serious situation negatively affecting a grade would be failure to show up for a required event without prior approval from the **band directors**. This can and usually does result in lowering of the grade (most likely failing) or dismissal from the group.

The first quarter grade will be determined by:

- Attendance – daily rehearsals and required performances.
- Punctuality to rehearsal and performance with all necessary materials including charts, markers and equipment.
- Individual preparation of music, marching, etc. and is checked by memorization check-offs.
- A professional attitude in rehearsal and performance.

Grades will be determined on the following three factors:

1. 50% of the quarter grade will be based on Participation Points. The base grade each quarter will be **85 – maximum potential of 100 points**. You may add or subtract points to your base grade by accomplishing the items below each quarter.

- +3 Auditioning for any approved honor band
- +5 Acceptance to any approved honor band
- +5 Solo and ensemble participation (each performance, except pep band performances). Limit of 5 points per quarter for religious service participation (W/P band, special music, etc.).
- +1 Each private lesson prepared to the satisfaction of the director or private instructor. If you wish to take private lessons from the directors, they will be scheduled once a week.
- +5 Student Leader (if job well done, per grading period).
- +1-5 Other activities assigned or approved by directors

- +1-5 Individual efforts to improve the Millard North Bands (to be determined by the directors)
- +5 For each post-season pep band performance and additional non-required games you play for.
- +5 Jazz Band membership (if you attend all rehearsals and performances, per quarter). You may miss 2 rehearsals per quarter. After the 3rd absence you may be suspended or expelled from the group
- +5 Pit Orchestra membership for school musicals (attendance at all rehearsals and performances is required to receive all points)
- +2 Accompanying solos and ensembles (each performance)
- +1 Sectional rehearsal. All sectional rehearsals for credit must be pre-approved by a band director and must be called and run by a section leader. Section leaders are responsible for turning in names and dates for credit. **Sectional rehearsals should be at least 30 minutes in length for marching band and concert band.** During marching season, all sections will have one scheduled sectional per week. **Students who are excused from sectional rehearsals (athletics, musical) may fill out a 30-minute practice verification form to receive sectional credit.**

AN UNEXCUSED ABSENCE FROM ANY SCHEDULED PERFORMANCE OF ANY ORGANIZATION MAY RESULT IN A GRADE OF (F) FOR THAT QUARTER AND POSSIBLE SUSPENSION FROM THAT ORGANIZATION. Also note that the attendance policy in your student handbook will be strictly adhered to, so be sure and read it and thoroughly understand it.

Examples of excused absences would include illness, family related weddings and funerals. Examples of unexcused absences would include work, vacations and social activities.

- 10 Improper care of the uniform or the instrument. (There will be inspections prior to all performances)
- 2 to -10 Any activity that impedes the normal educational process during any rehearsal or performance, or is detrimental to the band or the school (to be determined by the directors).
- 2 No instrument at rehearsal. Students who do not play during rehearsal will write a one page paper, in paragraph form, on the rehearsal proceedings of the day to erase points
- 5 Missing part of uniform
- 2 Out of uniform during activity
- 2 Not playing instrument at pep band performance
- 2 unexcused absence from a scheduled sectional

I. **30% of your quarter grade** will be based on Music Proficiency. This grade includes playing marching music from memory during first quarter, playing required scales and the preparation of concert band literature the remaining quarters. Students will perform from memory required scales/rudiments for each grade level and perform all other playing assessments using characteristic tone, embouchure, posture, playing position, fingerings, breath control, and articulation. Grading will be according to a rubric. Grade will also include written assessments.

1st Quarter: Band students are required to play from memory their marching band music
This grade will reflect 30% of the quarter grade. (Music Responsibility)

2nd Quarter: C, F, G, B flat, D, a minor scale
Percussion: Long roll, 5 stroke roll, Paradiddle, Flam, Ruff, Triple Ratamacue
(open/close/open)

3rd Quarter: E flat, A, A flat, E, Chromatic, d minor, g minor
Percussion: 9 stroke roll, Flam tap, Flamaccent #1 (open/close/open)

4th Quarter: B, D flat, c minor, f# minor, G flat, F# scales
Percussion: Flamacue, Ratamacue, Flam Paradiddle-diddle, 7 stroke roll, Single Drag, Double Paradiddle, 10 stroke roll (open/close/open)

III. **20% of your grade** will be based on Rehearsal Responsibilities. This grade includes a daily attendance grade consisting of 100% for being on time for rehearsal and performance, 80% for an unexcused tardy for any rehearsal or performance and 0% for an unexcused absence for any rehearsal or performance.

AWARDS AND LETTERS

POINT SYSTEM FOR RECEIVING A LETTER IN BAND

Freshmen earn	50
Sophomores earn	100
Juniors earn	150
Seniors earn	200
All Concert Band Performances	500
All Marching Band Performances	1000
All Assigned Pep Band Performances	200
Additional Unassigned Pep Band Performances each is	10

Playing at a Pep Rally	10
Small Ensemble contest/Public Performances (all rehearsals and performances)	50
Superior Rating for Small Ensemble Performances additional	30
Solo Contest/Public Performance	100
Superior Rating for Solo Performance additional	50
Secondary Instrument Solo Performance or Accompaniment	25
Honor Group Audition	25
Honor Group Alternate	50
Honor Group Performance additional	75
Member in Good Standing in Orchestra (yearly commitment)	100
Member in Good Standing in Jazz Band (yearly commitment)	200
Member in Good Standing in Pit Orchestra (complete show commitment)	50
Private Lesson (written verification from approved teacher) each 1/2 hour is	10
Leadership Team (if job well done)	100
Section Leader (if job well done)	100
Drum Major	150
Music Librarian	100
Winning a challenge	10
Attendance at Music camps, workshops, etc. each day	10

Additional Approved Items (points granted at the discretion of the directors for recorded practice, listening reviews, reading assignments, and other items that may be suggested by the student and approved by the directors). Points for outstanding efforts for the band shall be awarded at directors discretion.

To qualify for the band letter a student must not have had more than three unexcused absences from rehearsals or any unexcused absences from performances. Any student who has violated the attendance or conduct guidelines, at the discretion of the directors, may not be granted a letter. **The final decision for receiving a letter will always rest in the judgment of the directors, even if the points have been achieved.**

Total points necessary to Letter = 2000
 Total points color guard members need = 1300

A chenille letter is awarded the first year a student letters and pins will be awarded for each letter earned after the first.

The John Philip Sousa Band Award is awarded each year to the outstanding band member who displays superior musicianship, merit, leadership, dependability, loyalty, cooperation and positive conduct. This is the highest recognition awarded in the band.

The Patrick Gilmore Award is in recognition of another outstanding band member with similar qualities to the Sousa Award winner.

The Louis Armstrong Jazz Award is presented to a member of the Jazz Bands who exhibits the positive qualities and interest in jazz music with particular emphasis on improvisation, leadership and dedication to the area of Jazz.

The Woody Herman Jazz Award is presented to another member of the Jazz Bands who exhibits similar qualities in jazz music to the Louis Armstrong Award winner.

The Outstanding Senior Bandsman Award presented to a graduating bandsman who represents all-around positive qualities. Students are nominated by the membership of the band program.

The Spirit Award is presented to the student who displays positive energy and enthusiasm to all aspects of the band program. Students are nominated by the membership of the band program.

Band Booster Scholarships – are presented to two graduating band members. One scholarship will be awarded to a student pursuing a degree in music or music education, and the second award will be presented to a student wishing to participate in a band ensemble at his/her college institution.

Other awards are given through out the year when individual merits are achieved.

CONCLUSION

The accomplishments of the Millard North High School Band depend on each member of the organization. Even if just a few members do not cooperate fully, the band becomes an inefficient organization.

It is our hope that each member of the band will assume an immediate obligation to do his or her part in making our year at Millard North High School a memorable one!

CLASSROOM POLICIES FOR STUDENTS IN THE MILLARD NORTH HIGH SCHOOL BAND

Mr. Larry Rathbun, Director of Bands

Mrs. Cathy Keiser, Assistant Director of Bands

1. **BE ON TIME!** For all rehearsals and performances. Excessive tardiness could result in being pulled from performances and in failing the class. A student's first three tardies will be recorded with no penalty. Points will be deducted for each additional tardy after the third and the student will serve a detention after school (the day of the infraction or the next day). During marching band, rehearsals will begin at 6:45a.m. Students will be counted **tardy** if they are not at assigned rehearsal location, with proper dress and equipment at that time. For Concert Band/Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble, students will be counted tardy if they are not inside the "Rehearsal Hall" with instruments out and warmed up when the bell begins to ring.
2. Be prepared for class by having all necessary materials with you every day. This includes field markers, music, charts (in notebook), pencil, instrument and proper clothing for outside activities.
3. All 1st period **tardies** go through the attendance office. If you are late for a sectional or early rehearsal, report to the director in charge of attendance. The school tardy policy for all rehearsals will be in effect for this class. Students late to class must present a signed pass by another staff member authorizing the tardy to be excused. **No second hand messages will be accepted.**
4. Studying during a rehearsal will result in receiving a zero for the day and a detention.
5. **Show respect** for yourself and your classmates. **Rude behavior will not be tolerated.**
6. It is your responsibility to know what is going on in the life of the band at all times. Watch chalkboards, bulletin boards, electronic display board and designated areas for announcements concerning performances, school activities, auditions, college information, etc. Also check Mr. Rathbun's weekly updates on the band web page: www.mnband.net

7. **No food or drink will be allowed in the band room unless otherwise specified. This includes the fine arts hallway and practice rooms.**
8. **ALL PERFORMANCES** should be considered the same as a test. Be it a concert, contest, or pep band, your absence at one of these functions without proper notice may result in suspension from the performing group and/or a deduction in grade for that grading period.
9. Use of the piano, percussion and stereo equipment is only allowed with permission of the directors. Practice rooms may be used at any time they are available or before and after school.
10. Ask permission to leave your seat during rehearsal time.
11. At the end of rehearsal, instruments, music, color guard equipment, and clothing are to be returned to their proper places and all trash will be properly disposed of. This includes keeping the instrument locker area clean. No instruments or cases are to be left on the floor of the storage room or in the band room. The band room is used all day long as a classroom.
12. Students will remain in the Rehearsal Hall/Band Room until you have been dismissed.
13. Students are expected to respect the privacy of the instrumental music office, the directors' grade books, and other materials in the room which do not belong to you. Ask section leaders, drum majors or music librarian for assistance with music needs, etc. The office phone may be used with the permission of the band directors at appropriate times. The office area/library is not to be used as a locker. Please don't ask to leave your bookbags, etc. in these rooms.
14. In the event of a teacher's absence, students will be expected to cooperate with the substitute. Students failing to meet this expectation will be handled accordingly.
15. Student talking or visiting during rehearsal should be limited to musical topics pertaining to the rehearsal. The alternative to nonessential conversation is not talking at all. When a director is on the podium, all talking will cease.
16. Direct any questions, concerns, or problems you may have to the directors as soon as they occur.
17. All policies in the MNHS Student and Parent Guide will be enforced.
18. The interior band room door (by instrument storage) will not be used as a student entrance/exit following marching season.

It is not the policy of the band director to serve as music accessory supplier (reeds, oils, etc.). It is the student's responsibility to make sure his/her instrument is properly maintained and supplied throughout the school year.

Instrument care kits are available at local music stores and through our traveling music store representative. These kits provide oils, grease, cleaning rods, brushes and other items to assist in the proper care of the instruments.

****Students are responsible for maintaining good care of their instruments at all times. This includes needed reeds, mouthpieces, cleaning supplies, and mutes. Any/all of this equipment can be purchased at any music store in the metro area.**