



The Mighty Sound of Mendham

Mr. Michael “Mick” Gibbons, Director of Bands

Ms. Mimi Ward, Assistant Director

Mr. Devon Kappel, Percussion Instructor

Mrs. Erica Boos, Color Guard Instructor

Dear Parents and Students:

Welcome to The Mighty Sound of Mendham!! This program is one of pride, friendship, learning, positivity, diligence, and fun. We are one of the most visible aspects of the music department and we enthusiastically support the athletic programs here at West Morris Mendham High School. Through your experiences with the Mendham Marching Band, you will create memorable experiences that will last you a lifetime!

Marching band is a very special activity unlike anything else. It combines high caliber musicianship with energetic visual and athletic components. Proficiency in all components of this activity takes time and effort; it does not happen overnight. Marching Band is the ultimate team activity, and success is only possible if everyone is on board and giving 100% all of the time. Please take some time to acquaint yourself with this Marching Band Handbook and Welcome Packet. Read through it carefully and please feel free to contact the Band Staff at any time if you have any questions.

Attached are several pages of information regarding band camp, summer rehearsals, and the fall season. We encourage you to read all of it, even if your student is a returning member. Below, you will find a few items we wish to emphasize for your convenience. Please do not hesitate to ask questions if you are unsure of anything at any time.

Looking forward to a fantastic season,
Mr. Gibbons and the Band Staff

IMPORTANT THINGS TO REMEMBER

- **Band Camp** – MANDATORY FOR ALL MARCHING BAND MEMBERS! (*July 31st- August 4th*)
- **Program Fee*** - \$100 deposit (due July 1st) and \$275 remainder (due July 24th). This covers the cost of band camp expenses, as well as seasonal fees. In addition, a separate check for \$250 for uniform deposit is required, which will only be cashed at the end of the season if the uniform is damaged. Make both checks payable to Mendham Music Boosters and send to Veronique Holmes at 17 Delwood Road, Chester, NJ 07930. If your family is unable to afford the program fee, please reach out to Mr. Gibbons so that arrangements can be made.
- **Medical Form**: Students will be required to complete the band camp medical form prior to band camp. A physical is not required to participate in marching band.
- **Enrollment Form** – Please fill out the online enrollment form (link included) and send payment to the address at the bottom of this page.
- **Code of Conduct Form**- All students must review and sign the online Code of Conduct Form per school policy.
- **Uniforms and Uniform Policy** – Uniforms will be assigned prior to the start of our competitive/performance season. Please review and sign the online Uniform Policy Form.
- **Absences** – The accepted reasons for absences during the marching band season are: death within the family, wedding, religious obligation, illness, or anything approved by Mr. Gibbons.

***ALL SHOULD BE CONFIRMED BY MR. GIBBONS THROUGH EMAIL AND
A WRITTEN NOTE AS PER SCHOOL POLICY.***

- **Calendar** – Attached to this packet is the final schedule for the 2023-2024 season. This will allow your family enough time to make schedule adjustments when necessary.
- **Communication**: Sign up for mailchimp to receive announcements and updates for the season.
- **BE ON TIME TO EVERYTHING!** “*Early is On Time, One Time is Late, and Late is Unacceptable.*”

*Mail all payments to:
Veronique Holmes, Booster Co-VP
17 Delwood Road, Chester, NJ 07930

Checks should be made payable to Mendham High School Music Boosters

WELCOME TO THE 2023-2024 MIGHTY SOUND OF MENDHAM!

The Mighty Sound of Mendham Marching Band Handbook 2023- 2024

Conduct:

1. **Attitude is a choice!** It is your responsibility to always **try!** This includes trying to play your best, trying to march your best, trying to perform your routine the best, trying to be positive and productive, trying to get along with others, and trying to get the most commitment, focus, and energy possible out of yourself. Nobody is perfect, and learning is a continuous process. If you are consistently giving 100% effort, you **will** improve and grow not only as a musician and performer, but as a human being.

2. You have a responsibility to your fellow band members. Getting along with others in our complex society can be difficult at times, but you have an obligation to respect the rights and opinions of others. Criticism and feedback shall always be given and received in a constructive manner during rehearsals. If an issue develops, it should be brought to the attention of a staff member so that it can be handled in an appropriate manner.

3. Any marching band is successful only if the group works together as a unit. Numerous people combining drill, routines, and music is a tremendous and rewarding task which requires cooperation and mutual respect. No one individual or section of the band is more or less important than the total ensemble. All members of the band are valuable. Through teamwork, focus, commitment, energy, and positivity, we can learn more about ourselves and the human experience while delivering a high quality musical and visual performance to our audiences. Team effort can best be achieved through the following practices:

- Treat everyone with dignity and respect.
- ALWAYS strive for your best.
- Display a positive and cooperative attitude at all times.
- Be a person of integrity.
- Lead by example.
- Meet or exceed the standards you are holding others to.
- Strive for excellence without arrogance.
- Tolerate honest mistakes from people who are doing their best.
- Keep a sense of humor and be able to laugh at yourself.

Directors/Staff:

The directors and staff are responsible for organizing all aspects of the marching band program. The core staff include Mr. Michael “Mick” Gibbons, Director of Bands, Ms. Mimi Ward, Assistant Director, Mr. Devon Kappel, Percussion Instructor, Mrs. Erica Boos, Color Guard Instructor. Additional staff and clinicians may be brought in throughout the season in order to improve the quality of instruction, design, music, visuals, and general effect.

General Rules:

1. BE PROMPT! Being on time shows respect for everyone else's valuable time.
"Early is on time, on time is late, and late is unacceptable."
2. Smoking, drinking, and use of drugs are inappropriate, unacceptable, **and will be dealt with swiftly and severely.**
3. Chewing gum is prohibited in the Band Room (before, during, and after rehearsal) and on the Practice Field.
4. Individual preparation of music and drill is essential to our success. PRACTICE DAILY!
5. Wear appropriate style sneakers to all rehearsals – we are a **marching** band. No slides, flip flops, or shoes that would preclude from marching effectively.
6. Always have your music binder, drill, and a pencil for rehearsals. Please have water for every practice, even in cold weather.
7. Cooperation with others makes individuals a group.
8. Attempt to adjust quickly to changing or unexpected situations.
9. Show your loyalty to the group in all that you say and do.
10. **EARLY IS ON TIME, ON TIME IS LATE, LATE IS UNACCEPTABLE!**

General Band Camp Information for Band Members/Parents:

During the week of July 31- August 4th, the marching band will begin the most vital part of their season; **Band Camp**. We will be hosting band camp on our very own Mendham High School campus each day from 12pm-9pm.

UNSCHEDULED VISITORS ARE NOT PERMITTED DURING CAMP/REHEARSAL HOURS!

For the safety of all the students, and to prevent any unnecessary issues, visitors are NOT allowed. If you need to pick up your child in an emergency, you will be contacted directly.

Attendance Policies and Expectations:

Marching Band is the ultimate team activity. There is no first and second string trombone. There is no "JV" Marching Band. There is no understudy for clarinet number 3. **Every member is a vital part to the Organization and it is of the utmost importance that all members are present during all rehearsals and performances.**

Students are required to attend ALL rehearsals and performances. Every member is an integral part of the band. The success of the band depends upon each individual member. ***Homework is NEVER an excuse to miss a rehearsal or performance. In the case of illness; if you are well enough to be in school, you are well enough to be at rehearsal.*** Due to the nature of this activity and importance of excellent attendance, the policies, expectations, and consequences for absences are as follows:

1. It is the responsibility of students to set themselves as well as the organization up for success. This includes excellent attendance and punctuality. It is the expectation that students arrive to all Marching Band performances and rehearsals at least **10-15 minutes early** in order to be set up on time and ensure a successful rehearsal. A rehearsal call time of 6pm means that all students are on the field in their positions at 6pm with all necessary equipment, and are ready to be called to attention. *"Early is on-time, on-time is late, and late is unacceptable."* Tardiness or departing rehearsals or performances early, **without prior approval** will be considered "unexcused."
2. Any absences from Marching Band due to unforeseen circumstances (illness, death in the family) must be immediately followed by an email to Mr. Gibbons from a parent or guardian. *No excuse is necessary if a student is absent from school.* If a student is absent from school on a Friday and intends to participate in Marching Band that evening or the next day, a **written and signed note** from a parent or guardian is necessary.

3. **All anticipated absences from a Marching Band rehearsal must be approved well in advance.** *Requests to miss a rehearsal must be given to the Director via an email from a parent or guardian a minimum of two days in advance.* Email requests from a parent or guardian for permission to **miss a performance or competition** must be given to the Director *a minimum of one month in advance.*

4. Participation in another school activity (including sports, etc.) that will conflict with our schedule *is* allowed. The 6pm-9pm rehearsal schedule is intentionally set up to allow students to play a Fall sport *and* participate in marching band. These students *will split the rehearsal time with their activity.* It is the **student's responsibility** to inform the marching band director of the conflict and schedule **before** the season begins. The student is responsible for learning all missed material due to conflicts.

5. "Physical Excuses" - any student unable to fully participate in normal band activities (marching, playing, routines) due to such explanations as "bad knee," "sprained ankle," etc. must provide a note or an email from a parent or guardian to the Director. If the situation is recurring, a doctor's note may also be requested by the Director.

Consequences for Unexcused Absences

If a student fails to follow the proper procedures (listed above), the student will be charged with an *unexcused absence.*

One unexcused absence from a performance may result in a suspension or removal from the Organization. Receiving less than 24 hour notice may result in a suspension from the Organization.

At the discretion of the Director, two or more unexcused absences from a rehearsal or performance may result in a suspension, then removal from the Organization.

Absences from a rehearsal or performance due to school disciplinary action (detention or suspension) will be assessed on a case by case basis and may result in removal from the organization.

For any unexcused absence, Marching Band members who hold a leadership position may be removed from their position at the discretion of the Director or Staff. Performance assessment may also be required for a student to earn their place back in the field show due to any number of absences.

If a student misses three performances for *any* reason, he or she may be removed from the Organization.

If a student misses four rehearsals for any reason, he or she may be removed from the Organization.

Student Leadership

1. Student leaders are an integral part to the success of the marching band and the experience of all members. Student leaders are exemplary members of the band who serve to further the organization in all of its goals. Student leaders will be asked to take on additional responsibilities as they pertain to their role. Student leaders serve as teachers, demonstrators, conductors, motivators and are living examples of the ideal bandsman.

2. Student leaders are the representation of perfect conduct. They are the pinnacle of professionalism and set the example for the rest of the band. They are an essential part of the Organization and must conduct themselves accordingly.

3. Student leadership positions may be changed at the discretion of the Director as a consequence of conduct violations or excessive absences.

Chain of Command

1. The **Drum Major** is the highest student position in the Marching Band. The Drum Major serves the band as a conductor, demonstrator, teacher, motivator and always leads by example. The Drum Major arrives at least 30 minutes early to all band functions and meets with the Director before every rehearsal/performance in order to discuss the plans,

what the goals are, and how we will be achieving them. The Drum Major also serves to supervise and motivate the student leadership team. The **Band Captain** will serve as an “on-field” drum major and will also serve the band as a conductor, demonstrator, teacher, and motivator.

2. The **Section Leaders and Guard Captain** are members of the auxiliary units as well as select members of the wind and percussion sections. These students set the example for their sections and demonstrate exemplary character at all times. These leaders will communicate with the Director, Drum Majors, and Band Captain in order to set goals for their sections. The Section Leaders and Guard Captain will lead sectionals during the season in order to ensure growth in their sections. These leaders collaborate positively with other students in the Marching Band and always offer feedback in a constructive manner.

Audition Process for Student Leadership

1. The positions of the Drum Majors, Band Captain, Color Guard Captain, and Section Leaders are selected through an audition process during the Spring of the preceding school year.
2. The student leadership audition includes marching instruction demonstrations, conducting demonstrations, and interviews.
3. Student leaders with the exception of Color Guard must be enrolled in concert band in order to be eligible for a leadership position. Exceptions are made at the discretion of the director.

Inclement Weather:

Do not assume that any rehearsal or performance is canceled due to weather. If it is possible to rehearse outdoors, we will. Always check with a drum major, section leader, email, Mail Chimp and TeamSnap.

Marching Band Student Rides Policy:

Students are required to ride the district bus to and from all away games. If a parent would like to pick up or drop off their student, the parent must submit written notice to Mr. Gibbons 48 hours before the performance. An email or a written, signed note by the parent/guardian must be submitted. A text message, or phone call, although useful, will not suffice. A student may only leave a performance with their own parents/guardians. *Please make sure you check out with Mr. Gibbons or a staff member prior to leaving the game with your student. A band staff member must see the parent/guardian before the parent and student may leave.*

Mendham High School Code of Conduct:

All marching band students must adhere to the Mendham High School Code of Conduct. Please review, digitally sign, and submit the Code of Conduct form that is linked below.

[Athletic Code of Conduct](#)

Marching Band Uniform Policy:

The student and parent/guardian(s) are responsible for all pieces of the uniform. The uniform needs to be cleaned at the end of the season at a minimum. If a uniform piece is lost, stained, or damaged beyond repair, the student and parent/guardian(s) are responsible for the cost of the uniform piece(s) that applies. A refundable deposit and signed Uniform Policy form is due when the student gets fitted.

[Uniform Policy Agreement](#)

Medical Form:

Keeping all of our students safe is our primary goal. Please fill out the form below in its entirety. All information is kept confidential with school personnel.

[Band Camp Medical Form](#)

Music Boosters Club of West Morris Mendham High School:

The Music Boosters Club of West Morris Mendham High School is a very active group of parents that support the activities of all the band students of MHS. All parents are encouraged to be a part of this vital group. Without their support, many important elements of the program would not be possible.

See the website for the MB here: <https://wmmhsmusic.weebly.com/music-boosters.html>

Band Camp Necessities

July 31st - August 4th, 2023

Clothes:

- Shorts
- T-Shirts
- Socks
- Comfortable Athletic Sneakers (no sandals or flip flops)
- Sweatshirt
- Sweatpants
- Hat and/or Visor (MUST BRING)
- Rain Poncho or Water-Proof Jacket

Toiletries

- Deodorant (...please)
- Personal Supplies (contacts, etc.)
- Chapstick
- Brush/Hair Ties
- Kleenex
- Contact solution and case, extra contacts, glasses if needed

Other

- Sunglasses
- Sunscreen
- Bug Spray
- Hats
- Watch

Guard Stuff

- Guard Gloves (will be provided for you if you do not have them yet)
- One roll of each: black and white electrical tape (this is not required, but it helps out a lot, can be found in any hardware store).
- Any rifles or flags you may have at home.

Band Stuff

- Valve Oil for brass
- Reeds for clarinets/saxes
- Music
- Extra mouthpieces/ligatures/neck straps
- Pencils – LOTS OF THEM
- 3 Ring Binder
- Plastic Inserts

FACT SHEET FOR NEW AND RETURNING MARCHING BAND PARENTS

- Students should be at all rehearsals early. They should allow enough time to get their instrument ready to play by the scheduled time.
- Remember to bring sunscreen and extra water when the weather dictates.
- For games and competitions, students should bring a change of clothes. If possible, we may change into them.
- Students may choose to bring a small amount of money for the concession stand at football games and competitions.
- Competition days are very long. Frequently, the buses do not return to school until 11:00pm or later. It depends on our step off time.
- Hand warmers are helpful on cold nights. Kids can keep them in their uniform pockets.
- Band Grams, candy grams, and DVD's are usually available to purchase at the competitions. Band grams are messages that can be announced as our band marches out and candy grams are bags of candy that will be delivered to your child after they compete.
- All band parents are encouraged to volunteer for the many opportunities to help *The Mighty Sound of Mendham* function at its very best. We need help during band camp, and on game and competition days for Pit Crew, Picture Days, Uniforms, Refreshments (home games), Pre-Game/Pre-Competition Meals, Senior Banners, Band Banquet and more. Please reach out to mendhammarchband@gmail.org for more information.
- Stay in the know! All band parents should sign up to receive Mail Chimp Marching Band and Music Booster emails. [Click here to sign up.](#) *Families: Please sign up with each email address you would like to receive Music Booster Emails, otherwise only one family member will receive our emails.
- Marching Band Families are encouraged to join 2023-2024 Mendham Music Boosters. The Mendham Music Boosters generously support the Marching Band by bridging the gap between our membership fees and overall expenses. They help with expenses beyond what is covered

through student participation fees to support band staff, meals, uniform t-shirts, music and drills, banners, gifts, the banquet and more. We can't do it without Music Boosters! Membership information will be available over the summer on the Music Boosters website, <http://wmmhsmusic.weebly.com/music-boosters.html>.

- Attend the Band Parent Meeting on July 31st at 8pm.

SCHEDULE

ATTENDANCE AT ALL PRACTICES, GAMES, COMPETITIONS, AND PARADES ARE MANDATORY!

Summer Rehearsals: All students who are not away on vacation or at camp are expected to attend these sessions.

Band Camp: Band Camp will be from July 31st to August 4th, it will be held on our Mendham High School Campus. **ATTENDANCE AT CAMP IS MANDATORY!**

Fall Rehearsals: There will be rehearsal every Monday and Wednesday evening from 6:00-9:00pm, and before football games/competitions. Fall Rehearsals will begin IMMEDIATELY following Band Camp on Mondays and Wednesdays.

Football Games: There will be 9 regular season games played on Friday evenings and Saturday afternoons, with one Thursday night game as well.

Competitions: The current schedule reflects the competitions that we are currently signed up for. Students can expect to rehearse the morning of each competition.

Parades: It is mandatory that the band marches in the Labor Day Parade. Band Families and Friends are invited to watch the parade from the front lawn of St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 9 E. Main Street, Mendham. Please bring something for our refreshment table to share.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Although schools may be closed on certain days in the fall, WE WILL STILL BE ATTENDING MANDATORY EVENTS (Football Games, Parades, etc.)

Exact times for competitions, games, etc., will be released on a weekly basis.

2023-2024 Marching Band Season Schedule

AUGUST

BAND CAMP - MANDATORY

Monday, July 31st- 12:00pm- 9:00pm **Parent meeting at 8pm in the Band Room**

Tuesday, August 1st- 12:00pm- 9:00pm

Wednesday, August 2nd- 12:00pm- 9:00pm

Thursday, August 3rd- 12:00pm- 9:00pm

Friday, August 4th-12:00pm- 9:00pm **Friends and Family Show Preview at 6pm.**

PRACTICES (Mondays and Wednesdays from 6pm-9pm unless otherwise specified)

Wednesday, August 9th- 6:00pm-9:00pm

Monday, August 14th- 6:00pm-9:00pm

Wednesday, August 16th- 6:00pm-9:00pm

Monday, August 21st- 6:00pm-9:00pm

Wednesday, August 23rd- 6:00pm-9:00pm

Thursday, August 24th- 6:00pm-7:00pm - **Football Kickoff Bonfire (TBD)**

Friday, August 25th- **Away Game @ Central** 7:00pm

Monday, August 28th- 6:00pm-9:00pm

Wednesday, August 30th- 6:00pm-9:00pm

SEPTEMBER

Friday, September 1st- **Home vs. Robbinsville** 7:00pm **Twin Boro & Alumni Day**

Monday, September 4th- **LABOR DAY PARADE**

Wednesday, September 6th- 6:00pm-9:00pm

Friday, September 8th- **Away @ Montville** 7:00pm

Monday, September 11th- 6:00pm-9:00pm

Wednesday, September 13th- 6:00pm-9:00pm

Thursday, September 14th- Home vs. Warren Hills 7:00pm **BAND SENIOR DAY (TBD)**

Saturday, September 16th - **Event TBD**

Monday, September 18th- 6:00pm-9:00pm

Wednesday, September 20th- 6:00pm-9:00pm

Friday, September 22rd- **Away @ Par Hills** 7:00pm

Saturday, September 23rd- **Competition @ West Morris Central** (TBD)

Wednesday, September 27th-6:00pm-9:00pm

Friday, September 29th- **Home vs Madison** 7:00pm **Homecoming**

OCTOBER

Sunday, October 1st- **Competition @ Madison HS** (TBD)

Monday, October 2nd- 6:00pm-9:00pm

Wednesday, October 4th- 6:00-9:00pm

Friday, October 6th **OR** Saturday, October 7th- **Away @ Morristown** TBD

Saturday, October 7th- **Competition** TBD

Monday, October 9th- 6:00pm-9:00pm

Wednesday, October 11th- 6:00pm-9:00pm

Saturday, October 14th- **Away @ Chatham** TBD

Monday, October 16th- 6:00pm-9:00pm

Wednesday, October 18th- 6:00pm-9:00pm

Friday, October 20th- **Home vs. Morris Hills** 7:00pm **Football & Cheer Senior Day**

Sunday, October 22nd- **Competition @ West Essex** TBD

Monday, October 23rd- 6:00pm-9:00pm

Wednesday, October 25th- 6:00pm-9:00pm

Friday, October 27th- **Football Playoffs Begin** TBD

Saturday, October 28th- **States Competition @ Barnegat HS** TBD

READY TO JOIN THE MIGHTY SOUND OF MENDHAM!?

In order for our show to be completed, we need exact numbers for next year's marching band by July 1st.

**PLEASE COMPLETE THE ENROLLMENT FORM USING THE LINK
BELOW**

[ENROLLMENT FORM](#)

All information is kept confidential, and will only be used for records and extreme circumstances.

Not sure if you want to be a part of The Mighty Sound?

Here are some reason why you should join!:

- *YOU can build life-long relationships with your peers!*
- *YOU will make an immediate impact on the group, and will automatically earn your spot on the field!
NO TRY-OUTS, NO BENCHES!*
 - *YOU will be a part of a group that will benefit your college application efforts!*
- *If YOU earn a leadership position in our group, you will become even more prepared for future leadership endeavors!*
- *YOU will play more often, increasing the possibility of a "higher" seat in other ensembles!*
- *Join with your friends that don't play an instrument – there are so many opportunities for ALL students.*
 - *Make 40+ friends before the school year even starts!*
- *Surround yourself with the school's top students, athletes, and musicians while becoming one of them!*

COMMITTED TO MARCHING BAND?

Here are a few things you will need to do to finalize your participation.

CHECKLIST:

- _____ **ENROLLMENT FORM ONLINE** (due no later than July 1st)
- _____ **CODE OF CONDUCT FORM** (due no later than July 24th)
- _____ **MEDICAL FORMS** (due no later than July 24th)
- _____ **UNIFORM POLICY AGREEMENT ONLINE** (due no later than July 24th)
- _____ **SIGN UP FOR MAIL CHIMP MARCHING BAND EMAILS** [Click here to sign up](#)
- _____ **A COMPLETE PAYMENT OF \$375 and Uniform Deposit of \$250**
 - Deposit of \$100 Due July 1st
 - Remainder payment \$275 Due July 24th
 - Uniform Deposit \$250 Due July 24th (Only cashed if uniform not returned or damaged, unused checks will be shredded at the end of the season)
 - Checks should be made payable to Mendham High School Music Boosters
 - Mail checks to Veronique Holmes at 17 Delwood Road, Chester, NJ 07930

ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS CAN BE SENT TO:

Mr. Gibbons

mgibbons@wmrhsd.org

Contact the Co-VP's Veronique Holmes and Jessica Malangone
at mendhammarchband@gmail.com