

## **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)**

Revised Sept. 20, 2007 \*

### **I want to be a supportive band parent. Do we have any band booster activities?**

The Band Boosters have a number of functions throughout the entire year. These vary from operating the 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks stand, running the concession stands during all of the football games at Bronco Stadium and organizing fund-raisers for the students. We also have volunteer bus sponsors and several committees. Other functions after marching season are the Christmas concert, Jazz-athon (usually in February), Spring concert, and Band Banquet (usually held in May).

The “pit crew” is made up of volunteer parents that move the band on and off the field. These volunteers load and unload all instruments, uniforms, hatboxes, food, and supplies at each away game and contest. They also do most of the cooking for the band at the contests.

Band Boosters meet on the second Tuesday of each month at the band room, usually at 7:00 pm. Anybody wanting to support the MHS Band is invited to attend. This is a great way of keeping track of everything going on with the band, including future planning!

### **What grade must my band student be in to participate in the Nightrider band?**

Most, of course, are 10<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students with a limited number of 9<sup>th</sup> grade members. All participants go through a try-out process at the end of the previous school year (9<sup>th</sup> graders would have tried out during the end of their 8<sup>th</sup> grade school year etc.).

### **Does my band student have to participate in the Nightrider marching band even if they just want to be in the MHS concert band or jazz band?**

Yes, unless a waiver is granted by Mr. Myers, the Nightrider marching band is a prerequisite towards participation in other school bands (concert, jazz etc.).

### **What can you tell me about band contest trips?**

Mr. Myers establishes the times that the students will arrive to load for all of the contests. He allows for time to load the equipment, food, uniforms and all other necessities that are needed to support the 150+ members of the Nightrider Band.

Mr. Myers will give an estimated return time for all trips.

The buses will usually stop on the way to the contest for a quick lunch and at least once on the way home for snacks.

The Band Boosters will be feeding the band the evening meal at all contests (this keeps band members together and eliminates safety issues regarding traffic). Some of the food is obtained on a donation type basis from our local merchants or purchased by the Band Boosters.

The changing facilities at any of the contests are basically non-existent, so be sure to wear clothing that will allow for the utmost in modesty in getting ready for a contest. For example, students can wear boxer or gym shorts and T-shirts under their uniforms. All students need to be aware that they will be getting dressed on buses that are mixed gender wise.

### **As a band member, what do I need to know about contest trips and away football games?**

Keep in mind the weather conditions. If it is hot, dress accordingly and drink plenty of fluids to keep yourself hydrated. Hand warmers for cold weather can be purchased at Wal-Mart or Academy.

Be mindful of others around you when bringing all the goodies you need for the day. (Example: CD players, game boys, pillows, magazines, etc.)

Bring money for lunch on the way to the contest as well as for snacks on the way home. Each contest site usually has patches, T-shirts, group band pictures and concessions available. For away football games, you will need to eat before we leave for the performance.

Keep track of your uniform and your instrument. These are **your** responsibility. Once you turn them over to a "Pit Crew" member, you are home free until the time comes to use that item again. Quickly return it to the proper place at the trailers after use so that it can be reloaded to go home.

You **must** have black socks for performances. If you do not bring black socks, your socks will be painted black or taped with black tape. Also, bring your gloves and Dinkles.

If you have long hair, bring whatever you need to hold your hair in place under your hat.

Bring your instrument, uniform, and hatbox to the trailers and they will be loaded for you. The Pit Crew and the Directors will not be responsible for getting these items out to the trailers for loading. Please pick up after yourselves (trash, tape, hangers, etc!).

When picking up your belongings on the return trip (horns, drums, uniforms, hat boxes, etc.) do it quickly so that the Pit Crew, Directors and Parents will be able to go home ASAP!

Keep all money and anything else you will need handy on you. If you place your money in your hatbox and it gets loaded, it is nearly impossible to retrieve these items without repacking everything on the truck! (In other words, you won't have any \$)!!

Keep track of all the small items that are needed for a performance (mouthpieces, drumsticks, music, plumes, etc.) These items are usually found lying about after each football game and or marching contest.

If you should become ill, notify a Director or a bus sponsor **immediately**. There is a first aid kit available for minor emergencies.

You must ride the bus unless you have permission from Mr. Myers to ride with your parents. If you will be riding home from a contest with your parents after riding to the event on the bus, a **Director must be notified**.

### **As a band parent, what do I need to know about contest trips and away football games?**

Medical authorizations will be required of each student. Be sure to return these to the school so that we may have a record for any medical problems that may arise.

9<sup>th</sup> grade marchers sometimes do not get all the announcements relating to the varsity marching band, so if you have any questions, have your band member ask their section leader or one of the directors.

All parents should be aware that the typical return time for all of the contests, unless otherwise stated, is early A.M. (around 2:30am to 3:00am) the morning following the contest. Return times for away football games vary but band members will be given an expected time of return.

Admission is charged by the contest organizers and can range from \$5-8 per contest per person attending the competition. Away football games also have a small charge for entrance into the game.

If you are driving along with the band busses and trailers, **please do not position your vehicle in-between the buses or trailers**. This is a very unsafe practice and leads to confusion for the drivers. They must stay together and it is very difficult when a large convoy develops. Your child's safety is of the utmost concern, so we ask that you please co-operate in this matter.

At each event there is limited parking for the buses and support vehicles. Please allow these vehicles to park first and then fill in around them when possible. Not all parents' vehicles will be able to park in the bus area. Support vehicles are those that will be carrying the supplies needed to feed the students. These vehicles will be issued a Band Support Vehicle Permit to place on the dash.

We appreciate any help in the loading and unloading of the band equipment.

### **What can you tell me about Marching Band uniforms?**

The uniforms are supplied by the MHS Nightrider Band with the exception of the gloves, shoes (dinkles) and band shirts, which must be purchased by the individual band members. Order forms and a notification for the date that shoes can be tried on for sizing will be sent home identifying when payment must be made.

The uniforms for the Nightriders are very expensive; therefore, please remind your band member to take care of them. The uniforms will be stored at the school. Contact a band director to checkout a uniform for cleaning. They should be dry cleaned at least several times throughout the marching season.

The uniforms will need to be stored in the clothing bag that has been issued to the student. If the uniform gets wet, please hang the uniform out of the bag to allow it to dry in order to prevent mold and mildew.

Do not leave the uniforms in the trunks of cars or wadded up in the corner of the room.

### **Will my band student have any opportunities to raise money for band trips?**

There will be several fund raising activities for the students to participate in to raise funds for trips throughout the school year. Examples are the fruit sale and cookie dough sale.

### **\*If my band student raises money through fund raising activities, does this go into his individual account or into the band account?**

Monies raised by the students go into that student's personal account. If the money is not used during that current school year for band trips, etc. the money rolls over to the following year for that student's use.

**\*What is required to letter in band and in what grade is it possible to get a letter?**

3 of the 5 following requirements must be met:

1. Must be in good standing
2. Member of the Nightriders
3. Member of the CODA and/or All-State band
4. Receive a Superior rating on a solo and/or ensemble at District and/or State
5. Be in Jazz Band and/or Colorguard

Band members may letter as early as the 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

**\*What are the differences between CODA and All-State and how are students chosen to participate in these prestigious bands? Are there multiple levels of competition? If so, what do they entail?**

CODA Honor Band is more of a Regional Honor Group that is made up of students competing throughout the metropolitan area. All-OMEA (All-State) Band is a more prestigious group consisting of students competing from around the state. Both bands select students through an audition process. Audition information can be acquired from the student's director.

The CODA Band audition also serves as the first round All-OMEA (All-State) audition (there are two rounds of auditions for All-OMEA (All-State)). If you are within the top 50% of your District in the audition, you qualify for the 2<sup>nd</sup> round audition. The audition for the second round will be made up of all new material as opposed to that which was played in the 1<sup>st</sup> round. 2nd round audition material will be made available the week after the CODA auditions.

There is also an All-OMEA (All-State) Jazz Ensemble. Tryouts for this group are held at a different location and date than the CODA/All-OMEA (All-State) tryouts. Audition information can be acquired from the student's director.