

**Mauldin Middle School
Band Handbook
2021-2022**



“Outstanding Performance”

MMS BAND HANDBOOK

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Welcome to the MMS Band!

The MMS Band program consists of three levels of band instruction during the school day, each with varying levels of involvement relative to a student's needs, desires, and capabilities. Other after school ensembles, such as our Wind Ensemble, will be created each year to meet the needs of our exceptional students. Placement into these extra-curricular ensembles is by audition or invitation only.

THREE LEVELS OF BAND

BEGINNING BAND (6th grade)

The focus of this class is developmental and performance-based with an aim of preparing each student for a more advanced level of participation. There is a strong emphasis on fundamentals, collaborative learning, personal practice habits, and musical discipline. There is no required previous music experience for any of the woodwind or brass instruments. All students interested in playing the percussion instruments are required to have at least two years of piano instruction or receive an exceptional score on the "Rhythm Test" during an audition with the directors.

INTERMEDIATE BAND (7th grade)

There is a strong emphasis on performance with an aim of reinforcing fundamental music and practice skills learned in Beginning Band. Successful completion of a beginning band program is required for admission into the Intermediate Band.

ADVANCED BAND (8th grade)

There is a stronger emphasis on performance with a continued aim of reinforcing fundamental music and practice skills learned in Intermediate Band. Members of the Advanced Band are expected to maintain a disciplined practice routine to keep up with the more challenging literature. Successful completion of the Intermediate Band is required for admission into the Advanced Band.

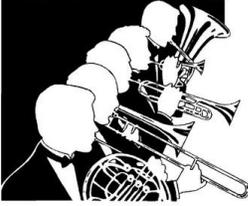


AFTER SCHOOL ENSEMBLES

(Placement is by audition or invitation only)

WIND ENSEMBLE

(7th & 8th graders)



This ensemble strives for the highest level of musicianship and involvement. Members must assume responsibility for the rehearsal, audition, and performance schedule of the Wind Ensemble, much of which occur outside the normal school day. All rehearsals and performances are required, and students (parents) must be prepared to furnish the Wind Ensemble uniform and defray the costs of major band competitions and invitational performance trips during the course of the year (Band Booster Organization assistance is available for individual needs in this area). If at a high enough individual performance level to be chosen for membership in this ensemble, a student and his/her parents must understand the collaborative level of responsibility required for such membership. Each student, supported by his/her parents, must pledge their dedication, musical discipline and collaborative responsibility in order to maintain membership in the Wind Ensemble.

The Outstanding Performance Award (OPA) is the highest award given to bands in South Carolina. Since the responsibility of achieving the standards for the OPA falls mainly on the members of the Wind Ensemble, each member is expected to attend Concert Festival. Each member is also expected to audition for All-County Band. Selected students will be invited to audition for Region Band.

DRUM LINE

(7th & 8th graders)

The drum line is a special ensemble that only exists during the final quarter of the school year. Auditions are open to any 7th or 8th grade band student including non-percussionists. All students auditioning are expected to provide their own snare drum sticks. All rehearsals will be before or after school.



HONOR BANDS

The Greenville County School District and The South Carolina Band Director's Association sponsor several "honor bands" of which our students may participate. Acceptance into these bands is by audition only.

ALL-COUNTY BAND

(Auditions - January 11th / Clinic – February 10th & 11th)

This clinic is only for band members from the schools in the Greenville County School District. The Junior Band is comprised of 6th – 8th grade students. Students must prepare a specific list of requirements and audition for a seat. Those selected students will then be invited to participate in the "All-County Band Clinic", where a guest conductor will prepare the students for a public concert performance. The selected students will also receive a medal to wear on their band uniform during future performances.

REGION 1 BAND

(Auditions - January 8th / Clinic - February 18th & 19th)

This clinic is for band members from the SCBDA Region 1 schools. The Junior Band is comprised of 6th – 8th grade students. Students must prepare a specific list of requirements and audition for a seat. Generally, the audition requirements for the Region Clinic are similar, but slightly more difficult than the All-County audition requirements. Those selected students will then be invited to participate in the "Region 1 Band Clinic", where a guest conductor will prepare the students for a public concert performance. The selected students will also receive a medal to wear on their band uniform during future performances.

SC ALL-STATE BAND

(Auditions - January 22nd / Clinic - March 11th-13th)

This clinic is only the top ranked musicians from each of the five SCBDA Region Bands. These students will be invited to participate in the SC All-State Band Auditions which selects the members of the SC All-State Band. Selected students will then be invited to participate in the "All-State Band Clinic", where a guest conductor will prepare the students for a public concert performance. The selected students will also receive a medal to wear on their band uniform during future performances.

SOLO & ENSEMBLE

(April 30)

Each year, the South Carolina Band Director's Association hosts Solo & Ensemble. This event gives students of all ages and performance levels a chance to present a solo (of their choosing) for a judge. There is also the opportunity for a small group of students to perform Duets and Trios. Musicians who receive the highest rankings can receive certificates and medals.

CONCERT ATTIRE

Beginning, Intermediate & Advanced Bands

- Blue MMS Band Polo
- Dark Pants - the darkest you have, and the dressiest you have (no sweatpants, leggings, shorts)
- Dark Dress Shoes (NO tennis shoes, sandals, or slip-ons)
- Black Socks if socks are needed with the shoes

Only students dressed appropriately will be allowed to perform. The band directors should be notified in advance if there is an issue with the attire.

Wind Ensemble

For **this year**, Wind Ensemble members will need:

- Blue MMS Band Polo
- BLACK pants
- White dressy top
 - Plain White
 - NOT a t-shirt or tank top
- Students who have a tux or dress from previous Wind Ensemble years MAY wear that outfit
- Dark Dress Shoes (NO tennis shoes, sandals, or slip-ons)
- Black Socks if socks are needed with the shoes



GRADES

Grades will be determined by the following criteria:

Minor Assessments (50%)

- 25% Class Participation – having all materials and participating in class
- 25% Written Quizzes/Playing Tests, Homework assignments (recordings)

Major Assessments (50%)

- Major Playing tests
- In class performances
- Concert attendance (this is a performance class)
October 29, 2021 – Fall Spooktacular Concert Preview
December 9, 2021 – Winter Concert
May 12, 2022 - Spring Concert

Grading Scale: A: 90-100 / B: 80-89 / C: 70-79 / D: 60-69 / F: 50-59

MATERIALS

- **Band instrument** (with reeds, mouthpieces, straps, mallets, sticks, etc.)

Required:

- **3 ring binder:** 6th grade – white; 7th grade – blue; 8th grade – black
- **Book:**
 - 6th grade – Standard of Excellence Book 1
 - 7th grade – Standard of Excellence Book 1 (may move to book 2 later in the year)
 - 8th grade – Standard of Excellence Book 2 (will spend a few weeks in Book 1)

Notebook paper and Plastic sheet protectors (20 each)

MMS Band Luggage Tag – provided by Booster Club

- **Music Stand** (wire / metal) – Keep at home for required practice time
- **Cleaning / Maintenance Kit** – Woodwinds and Brass only
- **Reeds** (at LEAST 3 unbroken reeds at all times) – Clarinets, Saxes, Oboes, Bassoons
- **Percussionists** will need all of the following:
 1. Snare Pad & Bell kit (pads should be freestanding on its own stand)
 2. Stick Bag with all mallets
 3. Snare Drum – 7th and 8th grades – optional for home practice

COMMUNICATION

1. **Email** – Parent / student email addresses are obtained from the CHARMS website. If you are not receiving band emails, please login to your CHARMS account and add a working email address.
** Refer to the CHARMS section – page 9 in this handbook **
2. **Website** – Visit www.mmsband.org to view the weekly schedule & more!
3. We put the weekly schedule on the **wall in the band hall** every week.
4. **Remind** – every student should have one adult family member receiving Remind texts from us. Students can join too! Codes were given out in class, emailed, and you can let us know if you need it again.

DAILY PROCEDURES

In the morning... The “**green sign**” (a music stand) will indicate when the band room is open for students to drop off their instruments in the morning. Each student will have an assigned place for their instrument.

The band room is usually open by 7:45 for students to come down. Students may NOT come to the band room before the green sign appears in the front of the glass hallway.

After their band class, if students are taking their instrument home that day, they should take their instrument to their 8th period classroom. They will then take the instrument home after school. If they are not taking the instrument home that day, students should leave the instrument in their assigned spot in the band room.

The band room or 8th period classroom are the ONLY places that instruments should be! This is the only way we can ensure the safety of the instruments.

Students must take their instruments home over the weekend. Students will need to take instruments home during the week to complete their homework (practicing). Students should be practicing regularly outside of class during the school week.

WEEKLY PRACTICE

PRACTICE TIME

Individual practice is imperative for the student's progress. "Cramming in" a week's worth of practice on Sunday night is not as beneficial as practicing a little bit 4-5 times a week.

This is the one discipline that needs the most parental assistance. ***Practicing is the required homework.*** Parents MUST be diligent in making sure that their child practices regularly. Band class will be much more productive and enjoyable, and we will be able to cover more material, if all students are dedicated to practicing regularly.

HOMEWORK CHECKS

Students will have several assignments to practice at home every week. They will use their Chromebooks to complete homework check recordings through their CHARMS accounts or Flip Grid .

We will also hear students play individually regularly to ensure that the assigned music is being mastered at an expected level. This would be a short sample (one scale, one line from the method book, a few measures from a concert song, etc.)

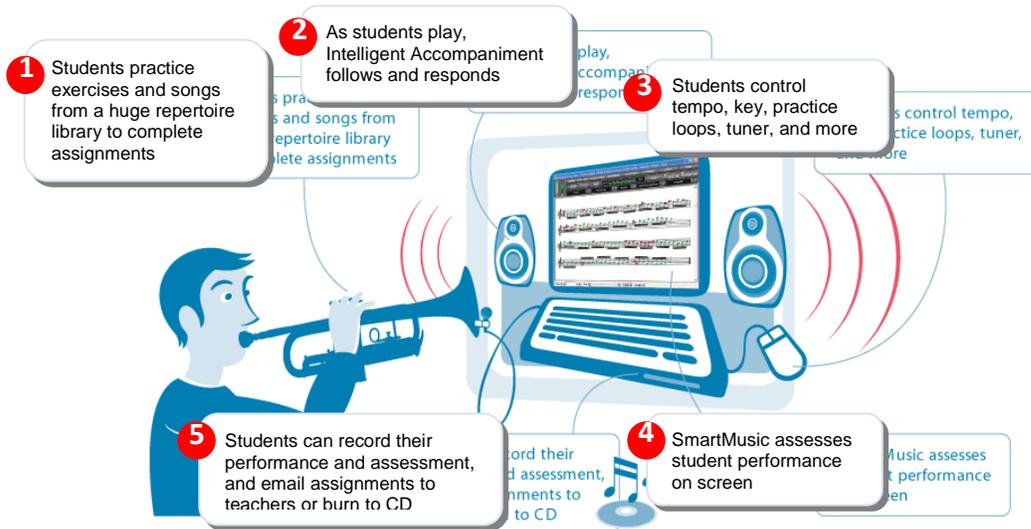
EXTRA CREDIT

- Students who take a private lesson with an approved teacher will receive an extra 20 points for their weekly grade. **Students who take a private lesson must and wish to receive extra credit must have the teacher fill out a simple checklist at each lesson. The student is responsible for showing Mr. Kilgus or Ms. Poston the checklist for the extra credit.**
- Other extra credit opportunities may be given such as holiday extra practice or extra weekly assignments.



SMARTMUSIC

The Smart Music software program has been a great addition to our program! We use the program in class every day and is available at a cost if you wish to use at home.



PRIVATE INSTRUCTION

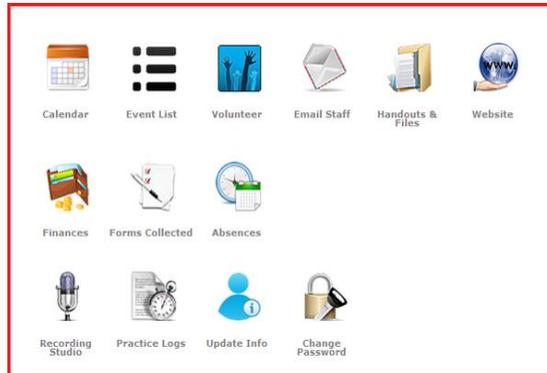
Private instruction is the single most musically beneficial experience your child is offered. We strongly recommend private instruction to all students. Students have a much better chance at succeeding on their instruments and becoming the top players in the band. A list of suitable instructors is available upon request through Mr. Kilgus and Ms. Poston.

Double reed students using an MMS instrument are required to take weekly private lessons.



CHARMS

Charms is an online database and email system that is provided to all band students by the Band Booster Club. Charms allows parents to view their child's financial status, make payments with the band as well as volunteer opportunities. It also gives students access to music recordings, sheet music, tuners, metronomes, recording studio and more.



HOW TO ACCESS YOUR STUDENT'S ACCOUNT

1. Log into: **www.charmsoffice.com**
2. Enter School Code: **mauldinmsband** (*click Enter*)
3. Enter Student's Area Password - (4 or 5 digit Charms ID on sticker we sent home August 26). You will immediately change password – parents and students should know the password!
4. Forgot your password? You will need to reset through CHARMS; we can no longer reset for you.

HOW TO UPDATE YOUR STUDENT'S INFORMATION

1. Click on the UPDATE INFO icon (2nd from the right on bottom row)
2. Review & edit your information (student's / mother's / father's)
3. Click the UPDATE button (upper right) to save your information!

MMS BAND BOOSTER CLUB

The MMS Band Booster Club provides much needed financial support for our bands. Much of what we accomplish at Mauldin Middle would not be possible if not for the Booster Club's efforts.

The mission of the MMS Band Booster Club is to assist the Band Directors and professional staff to:

- Promote and encourage the band to reach its fullest potential.
- Support the music & performance program defined by the band directors.
- Promote the interests of the band within the local community.

Booster Club Executive Board

Jonathan Mitten	President
Alex Forrest	Vice President
Stephanie Hollander	Secretary
Anne Mahaffey	Treasurer
Andrea Zedek	Assistant Treasurer/CHARMS
Dawn Sult	Ways & Means Director
Scott Standridge	Ways & Means Assistant Director
Leslie Donahue	Coordinator: Travel and Events
Kim Kapadia	General Director

Band Booster meetings are a very important way to keep everyone informed about band activities. Executive Board meetings are open to the public; however, procedures dictate prior notice for discussion of topics not on the agenda. Specific dates will be announced well in advance of general meetings. Bylaws are available for anyone who requests a copy.



BOARD MEETING

CONDUCTOR'S CIRCLE (Yellow Sheet)

Anyone who makes a monetary donation to the MMS Band Booster Club will become part of the Conductor's Circle. We greatly appreciate your help in defraying the enormous cost of operating the band program! The goal this year is \$8,000.

➤ **Conductor's Circle Levels**

- \$25-\$49 Friend of the Band
- \$50-\$99 Future Musicians Sponsor
- \$100-\$199 Distinguished Booster
- \$200-\$499 Honorary 1st Chair
- \$500 or more Honorary Director

➤ **Reserved Seating at Concerts**

- Distinguished Booster - 2 reserved seats at the Spring concert.
- Honorary 1st Chair - 2 reserved seats at BOTH Winter and Spring concerts
- Honorary Director (\$500+ contribution) – 4 front row seats at Winter, Spring and Conductor's Circle Concert

➤ **Conductor's Circle Concert** (late April)

A \$25 minimum donation secures family seating at this exclusive concert. Performances from Wind Ensemble as well as other ensemble groups.



*Conductor's Circle donations can be made any time during the year.
Donations are Tax Deductible!*

FUNDRAISING EVENTS

WALK-A-THON

October 8

MMS Track

Collection Envelopes Due: October 13-15

Inclement Weather date – October 15

This 50/50 fundraiser gives the students the opportunity to raise money for their band trip(s) and other expenses by collecting pledges and/or donations for laps walked around the track. **Half of the money collected by each student will go into their personal band account** / The other half will go into the general band fund. *A maximum of \$70 can be applied to a student's Carowinds trip.*



- **Students need to turn in a minimum of \$20 by Friday morning in order to participate.**
- The event begins at 3:15 and goes until dark (around 8:00).
- **Dinner will be provided for student walkers and parent volunteers ONLY.** Concessions will be available for spectators & siblings to purchase.
- **Parent volunteers are needed** to help count laps as well as prepare and serve food. Please sign up in Charms in volunteer section if you'd like to help, or email Dawn Sult at dslmt21@gmail.com.
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PRIZES

- Walk-a-Thon **Top 3 Fundraisers** win Cash Prizes
1st place: \$100 2nd place: \$60 3rd place: \$40
- Top walker per grade – MMS Band Spirit Shirt



State law stipulates that fundraised money may NOT be earned for chaperones or returned to students for cash.

CHEESECAKE SALE

Just in time for the holidays, the Booster Club will hold a cheesecake sale! **ALL profits from this fundraiser will go to the general band fund** (which is used to finance the purchase of school-owned instruments, travel, and registration fees).

- Kickoff: **early November**
- Orders Due: **Mid November**
- Delivery: **Mid December**

SPIRIT NIGHTS

We will have several MMS Band Spirit Nights at various restaurants. Be on the lookout in the weekly emails and texts for times and locations. Come out to support the band!

Already scheduled:

August 31 – Tropical Smoothie Café at Five Forks
September 21 – Chipotle on Woodruff Rd.



Raffle Event

This year, the band students will be holding their third annual raffle event; the primary aim being to raise money for travel expenses. Every band student has an opportunity to participate in at least one of the band competition / performance trips in the spring.

In recent years the band raised over \$12,000 through the raffle for their trips!!

If you or your company are able to support the band raffle through a donation of cash or gifts, please contact Jonathan Mitten (Booster President) or Alex Forrest (Booster Vice President). Your donation is greatly appreciated.

EDUCATIONAL REWARDS PROGRAMS

Publix – Partners with Education

1. Log in to Publix online (create account if needed)
2. Click Welcome, go to My Account
3. My Publix Partner, Choose School (Mauldin Middle Band)
4. When you shop after selecting, enter your phone number.

AmazonSmile

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support the MMS Band every time you shop, at no cost to you. With smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to our program!

1. Go to: **smile.amazon.com**
2. Where it says “Or pick your own charitable organization” type:
Mauldin Middle School Band Boosters



CAROWINDS Q & A

1. When is the MMS Band Carowinds Festival of Music trip?
 - Friday, May 6, 2022
2. What is the purpose of this trip?
 - The Beginning Band, Intermediate and Advanced Bands will perform on stage for judges and will receive a performance rating as well as comments. (Three separate performances)
3. Can any band student go on the trip?
 - Yes, but students will be expected to prepare their music to an acceptable level for competition. Students who choose to not learn the music will not be allowed to go on the trip.
4. Does my child have to attend?
 - No - this trip is totally optional.
5. What is the total cost for a student?
 - \$100. Funds raised from the raffle will go towards lowering the overall transportation cost for this trip.
6. Do I need to reserve a spot for my student?
 - **Yes - please send in a \$30 deposit (*along with the green sheet*) by September 3.** This helps us determine the number of buses we need to reserve.
7. When is the balance due?
 - Students' trips must be paid in full by **Friday, April 1, 2022.**
8. What does the cost cover?
 - Transportation to and from the park (charter buses).
 - Festival of Music park ticket - includes park entry, judges' fees, any plaques earned, and festival facilities.
 - Yes, lunch and dinner will be included either in the form of cash given back or meal wristbands.
9. How much of my student's fundraised money can be applied to this trip?

\$70 max

11. What is the cost for a chaperone?
 - This cost will be determined by the number of chaperones needed. We will request chaperones and publish the cost 4-6 weeks before the trip.
12. What does the cost for chaperones include?
 - Transportation & park tickets are covered.
 - Sometimes we are able to fund one meal, but that is not a guarantee.
13. Can chaperones drive up by themselves?
 - No - all participants must travel with the group on the buses.
14. Can chaperones bring other children along who aren't in the band?
 - Unfortunately, NO - we can only allow performing students and chaperones to ride on the buses.
15. Can I use a Season Pass?
 - Yes - for park entry, but Carowinds requires everyone to have a Festival of Music ticket (for an additional small fee).
 - A \$30 deposit is still required for students.
 - Total cost will be around \$65, depending on total charter bus costs.
16. Can I use (discount) tickets I purchased from somewhere else?
 - NO - in order for the student to participate in the competition, all tickets must be purchased through the Booster Club or the participant must use an official Season Pass.
17. What if I pay for the trip and then cannot go, will my money be refunded?
 - The \$30 deposit for students is **ALWAYS** refundable.
 - Any remaining money will be refunded if notice is given **PRIOR to April 1 or once tickets or ordered, whichever comes first** (limited to the amount actually paid – not fundraised).
 - **AT NO TIME CAN FUNDRAISED MONEY BE RETURNED.**
18. What do students wear?
 - Competition - MMS Bands concert attire (depending on weather, possibility of wearing shorts. Will be communicated closer to trip)
 - Rest of the day in the park - students must meet MMS dress code.

For answers to any questions not covered above, please contact:

Julie Poston jposton@greenville.k12.sc.us

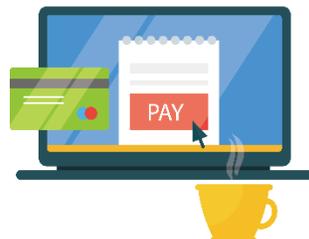
Jim Kilgus jkilgus@greenville.k12.sc.us

STUDENT PAYMENT DUE DATES

Payments can be made online this year! Check the mmsband.org website for links to payments throughout the year.

If you prefer to send in a check or cash, make sure to send in a sealed envelope to the band room safe. On the envelope make sure to write: student first and last name; date; amount enclosed; what the payment is for. Separate envelopes for sibling payments please!

<u>Due</u>	<u>Payment for</u>	<u>Who does this?</u>
➤ Sept 3	Band polo - \$20 Carowinds deposit - \$30 Spirit Wear – prices vary	Students without a band polo Any student Any student
➤ Nov 1	County audition - \$10 Region audition - \$12	Wind Ensemble members 8 th graders by invitation
➤ Feb 17	Solo only - \$6 Ensemble only - \$4 Solo & Ensemble - \$10	Any student Any student Any student
➤ April 1	Final Carowinds payment See CHARMS for balance Chaperones' amount TBD	Any student
➤ Several	Wind Ensemble trip	Any Wind Ensemble member



Outstanding Band Member Awards

At the Spring Concert, we will recognize students in all grades who have gone above and beyond in the band program, and demonstrated excellent musicianship, effort, and leadership. See below for criteria for each grade level.

All Students

- Maintain an A average in band class every quarter
- Attendance at all required performances
- No more than one unexcused absence for morning rehearsals during concert preparation
- Participate in at least 1 band fundraiser
- No discipline referrals for band for the school year

6th Grade Outstanding Band Member

- Consistently pass off all required homework recordings (no more than 1 week late)
- Winds - Pass off 4 one octave scales from memory
- Percussion – Mallets – 5 two octave scales, Snare - 2 rudiments
- Do 2 of these 5:
 - Superior or Excellent rating at Solo and Ensemble
 - Play in small ensemble at Conductor’s Circle concert (by invitation)
 - Successfully prepare music for and participate in SC CPA
 - Successfully prepare music for and participate in Carowinds Festival of Music
 - Take regular private lessons on band instrument (must start no later than January)

7th Grade Outstanding Band Member

- Consistently pass off all required homework recordings (no more than 1 week late)
- Winds - Pass off 5 scales from memory (woodwinds – at least 2 must be 2 octaves)
- Percussion – Mallet- Scale Master, Snare - 3 rudiments
- Do 3 of these 7:
 - Superior or Excellent rating at Solo and Ensemble
 - Play in small ensemble at Conductor’s Circle concert (by invitation)
 - At least 60% score at All-County Band Audition and attend clinic if selected
 - At least 50% score at Region Band Audition and attend clinic if selected
 - Successfully prepare music for and participate in Carowinds Festival of Music
 - Successfully prepare music for and participate in SCCPA
 - Take regular private lessons on band instrument (must start no later than January)

8th Grade Outstanding Band Member

- Consistently pass off all required homework recordings (no more than 1 week late)
- Winds - Scale Master
- Percussion – Mallet-Scale Master; Snare – 5 rudiments
- Do 4 of these 8:
 - Superior or Excellent rating at Solo and Ensemble
 - Play in small ensemble at Conductor’s Circle concert (by invitation)
 - At least 70% score at All-County Band Audition and attend clinic if selected
 - At least 60% score at Region Band Audition and attend clinic if selected
 - Successfully prepare music for and participate in Carowinds Festival of Music
 - Successfully prepare music for and participate in SCCPA
 - Take regular private lessons on instrument (must start no later than January)

MMS BAND CALENDAR

August

26 – Thursday 6:30 pm Booster Meeting for all parents – via Zoom

September

16 - Thursday 4:15-5:30 8th Grade Night Rehearsal - MHS

17 - Friday 6:00-end of game 8th Grade Night – MHS

October

8 - Friday 3:00-8:00 Walk-A-Thon – MMS Track

15 - Friday TBD Walk-a-thon inclement weather

29 - Friday First Period Fall Spooktacular Preview Concert

December

9 - Thursday 6:30 pm Booster Club Meeting in Gymnasium

9 - Thursday 6:45 pm Winter Concert (Required – All Bands)

January

8 - Saturday Times TBA Region Band Auditions

11 - Tuesday Times TBA All-County Band Auditions – MMS

Mid-month In class Band Booster Raffle Kickoff

22 - Saturday Times TBA All-State Band Auditions

29 - Saturday Times TBA Region or State Inclement Weather Auditions

February

10 - Thursday 5:00pm--9:00pm All-County Band Clinic

11 - Friday 8:00am–8:00pm All-County Band Clinic & Concert

14 – Thursday AM Raffle Event

18 - Friday 8:00am–6:00pm Region Band Clinic

19 - Saturday 8:30am–6:00pm Region Band Clinic & Concert

March

11-13 – Fri-Sun All-State Band Clinic & Concert

15 or 16 – Tues/Wed during the day CPA – Beg. Band and Wind Ensemble

April

6-10 – Wed-Sun Florida Trip - Wind Ensemble

24 – Sunday Tentative Conductor Circle Concert

29 - Friday Times TBA Solo & Ensemble

30 - Saturday Times TBA Solo & Ensemble

May

6 - Friday Early AM – Late PM CAROWINDS

12 - Thursday 6:30 Booster Club Meeting in Gymnasium

12 - Thursday 6:45 Spring Concert (Required – All Bands)