



2026-2027
Band Handbook
Mater Dei High School



Directors:
Allison Field - Meghan Carter

April 10, 2026

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to the Mater Dei High School Band program! We are proud of our long-standing tradition of excellence within the Mater Dei community. This handbook is carefully designed to be a reference for students, parents, administrators, staff, and directors. It is intended to provide information regarding the different aspects, procedures, and rules of our instrumental program. Please be sure to read through the handbook to become familiar with all of the information. Mater Dei band members are expected to understand and abide by the rules and regulations set forth in this handbook. All band students and parents are required to sign and return the contract at the end of the handbooks. In addition, please be sure to visit our band website at mdband.org frequently for updates, calendars, forms, and other information throughout the year. If you have any questions about anything in the handbook, please let one of the directors know.

Musically,

Allison Field

afield@evdio.org

Meghan Carter

mcarter@evdio.org

Organizations

MARCHING BAND

The Mater Dei Marching Wildcats - The Marching Wildcats have a strong tradition of excellence that includes multiple trips to ISSMA State Marching Band Finals. The marching band is the most visible performing ensemble at Mater Dei. Marching band is an extra-curricular activity involving winds, percussion, and color guard members (7th-12th grades). Marching season begins in the summer and continues through the beginning of November. Membership in this group is by invitation of the directors (s) only. The Mater Dei marching band performs at home football games, marching band contests, parades, and other performance opportunities during the marching season. The marching band also takes a trip to Disney World every 4 years, the next trip being in the Spring of 2026. All marching band members in good standing are eligible to participate in the trip.

CONCERT BAND

The concert band class is offered at Mater Dei High School for students in grades 9th-12th. This class is open to all students who have previous band experience, or at the discretion of the director. The focus of this class is to develop musicianship through ensemble and individual performances. Students have the opportunity to perform quality literature at various events throughout the school year including the Fine Arts Gala in the Fall, Christmas concert, ISSMA Solo and Ensemble contest, as well as the Mater Dei Stage Show in the Spring.

PEP BAND

The Mater Dei pep band is an extra-curricular activity involving students from the high school band as well as the feeder school band. The pep band performs at home basketball games during the months of November through February. Membership in this ensemble is open to any instrumentalist.

WINTER GUARD

The Mater Dei winter guard is directed by Mrs. Meghan Carter and Mr. Justin Carter. The winter guard holds auditions in November and competes at competitions in the Indianapolis area during the months of January through March. Experience in dance and flag/weapon work is not required but suggested.

WINTER PERCUSSION

The Mater Dei Winter Percussion ensemble is led by Ms. Field along with other staff members. Auditions are held at the beginning of December and competitions begin in February and end in March or April (depending on the year). Membership in this ensemble is open to ANY instrumentalist. Experience in playing a percussion instrument is not required but suggested.

Responsibilities of a Band Member

The band program at Mater Dei High School forms a vital and important part of the high school experience. The band's appearances at sporting events, concerts, parades, contests, as well as community and civic events add a great deal of life to the community.

The focus of the band program is on musicianship, faith, citizenship, respect, academics, morale, and responsibility. Members will have a highly successful band and academic career if they are dedicated, willing to work, and have the support they need. Members learn valuable organizational and social skills that will help them achieve their goals now as well as after high school.

As band members, we represent our family, our faith, our band, our community, and ourselves. We must hold ourselves to high standards in order to achieve high goals.

Responsibilities To Ourselves

We have a responsibility to ourselves to be dedicated individuals who are willing to work hard and put the time and effort into our chosen craft of music. We owe ourselves time to practice, time to rehearse, time to do homework, time with our families, time with our friends, and time to ourselves. We can fulfill each of these responsibilities by being organized and planning ahead.

Responsibility To Our School and Community

The school district provides the setting and facilities for many of our performances. We have the obligation to provide the best possible performances for our school and our community. This also includes giving up some of our free time on holidays, vacations, evenings, and weekends to perform. It also means that if the school owns the instrument you play, you are willing to take proper care of it, having it repaired or replaced if necessary.

Responsibility To Each Other

Getting along with each other in our complex and ever-changing society can be a difficult task in itself. You have the obligation and responsibility to respect the rights of others. Antisocial behavior will only breed the same from others. Always treat others with respect and dignity, as you wish others to treat you.

Responsibility To Music As An Art Form

The performing arts have always been a vital part of humanity. YOU possess a very special talent. You now have the obligation and responsibility to use that talent for the betterment of your community.

Responsibility To The Band Program

To meet any goals that we set, we must be on time to all rehearsals and performances. We must remain focused while rehearsing. We must be willing to play a different instrument if it will help the band. We must be willing to fundraise. We must be willing to have FUN. We must be willing to participate. We must be willing to be a part of the band.

Band Member Expectations

Each student should follow the guidelines listed below. When all band members follow these procedures it makes for a productive and positive rehearsal experience.

- **Understand that all Mater Dei High School rules regarding student behavior, student safety, and possession of controlled substances are in effect at all times while with the band. This includes events held on MD property as well as all band sponsored trips to contests, away camp, or travel opportunities.**
- Be on time to all rehearsals and performances. **Early is on time - on time is late.**
- Upon entering the rehearsal setting, get your materials out and ready to start.
- When a director or staff member steps on the podium or asks for your attention, be respectful and give them your undivided attention.
- Come to each rehearsal with a good attitude. Only you can make this choice.
- Make a real effort to improve on a daily basis, and establish a good practice routine.
- At the end of rehearsal, put all materials in their proper place and clean the rehearsal space (band room, guard closet, percussion room, rehearsal lot, etc) BEFORE you leave.
- Maintain a strong academic standing in all course work.
- Become responsible for and assume responsibility for your own actions. Admit when you make a mistake.
- Have proper respect for yourself and those in authority.
- Be a good representative of the band program and of your school community. Show respect for all band members, directors, and parents, even if they are not a part of our organization.
- Negative or disrespectful social media posts made toward the band program may result in dismissal from the program or loss of privilege within the program. This decision will be at the director(s) discretion. Additional administrative measures may be taken in accordance with the Mater Dei High School student handbook.
- Come to rehearsal prepared with the proper equipment, materials, and attire. Having the proper attire for any weather will ensure a productive rehearsal.
- Public Displays of Affection (PDA) is not for rehearsal or for the band room.
- **Horseplay and hazing of any kind will not be tolerated.**

General Rule:

If you are about to do something that you will have to explain to the staff and /or the administration later - **DON'T DO IT!** Common sense will serve you well in those situations.

The Importance of Attitude

The greatest single factor that will determine the success of any individual or organization is **attitude**. The kind of person you are is an individual choice, and how you feel about something is one of the few actual independent choices you have in life. The right attitude must be present along with sincerity, concentration, and dedication as the basic foundations. Those students who have a positive attitude, regardless of their individual skills, will always have a place in the Mater Dei Band. Conversely, students who do not have a positive attitude and are not doing their personal best to make the group successful should not participate in our program. Make the most of every rehearsal and performance. Remember the more effort you put into the program and making every rehearsal successful, the more fun and worthwhile your experiences become.

Student Leadership

One of the goals of the Mater Dei High School Band Program is the development of leadership qualities in students. Students who possess the potential to be good leaders will have the opportunity to apply for a leadership role in the band each school year. **Being a student leader is a service position** and not a position of power or glory. Student leaders are expected to encourage and help as well as to befriend those within their section. They must have good musical or auxiliary skills to lead their group to a high level of performance. Because good leaders lead by example, student leaders are expected to be members in good standing. Since the public associates the leaders as representatives of the band, a high level of behavior, maturity, and responsibility should be maintained even when not with the band. All leaders should monitor each member so the band functions smoothly. The band director reserves the right to remove any student from his/her position if any problem cannot be resolved or is warranted in any way.

Drum Major - The Drum Major is one of the top leadership positions in the Marching Band. Auditions are held in the Spring and the position is filled using a thorough audition and interview process. Candidates for Drum Major must have completed at least one full year in marching band and must portray leadership qualities. One of the main roles of the Drum Major is conducting the marching band during their marching show. Additionally, the Drum Major is responsible for communicating with the directors and section leaders on a regular basis on the status of the band.

Section Leader - In marching band, section leaders are students that are strong players and excellent leaders in their section. These leaders are appointed by the director(s) based on an application and interview process. They are responsible for seeing that the students in their section know their music, routine, and drill. Section leaders must be able to conduct productive sectionals, assist in drill instruction, and perform other tasks as necessary. It is very important that the section leaders encourage their sections as a team in order for all players to feel comfortable. Section leaders are responsible to the directors, staff, and Drum Major(s).

Band Rehearsals and Guidelines

Attendance

Our band rehearsals are important to the quality of our performances; therefore **attendance is of the utmost importance**. Please schedule appointments (doctor, dentist, orthodontist, etc) on days and times that do not conflict with rehearsals or performances. We understand some appointments cannot be changed, but we ask for everyone's understanding on this matter.

If students must miss a rehearsal, they must make sure to give advance notice to the director(s) and talk with their section leader on what they missed. We also respectfully ask parents not to use missing marching band as a punishment for behavior outside of school. Attendance is also tied to receiving a band letter or chevron at the band banquet at the end of the year.

Excused absences include student illness from school, family emergency, family wedding or funeral, and a director approved Mater Dei activity. Any other absence will be considered unexcused. Too many rehearsals missed (at the discretion of the director) will result in the student not participating in the upcoming performance; not as a punishment, but due to the student missing too much information.

Rehearsals

- Students should arrive 10-15 minutes before rehearsal/report time so they have time to get their instrument and equipment and go to the rehearsal space.
- **Be dressed for the weather.** Students should wear loose-fitting and comfortable clothes to rehearsals, especially during the summer months.
 - No jeans
 - Tennis shoes need to be supportive. Toms, Sperrys, and Converse are not supportive.
- Water is a necessity. **Everyone MUST bring an insulated water jug or a Coleman brand type thermos filled with water to EVERY rehearsal, no matter the time of year.** We will provide water at rehearsals as well, but we do have limited quantities. Everyone must drink water!
- You should have your instrument, music in a binder, a pencil, and your dot book ready for when rehearsal begins.
- Sunblock, sunglasses, and bug spray are needed, especially during the summer months.
- Your instrument should be in proper working condition at all times. This includes having a good reed (plus backup reeds), valves and keys oiled, etc.
- Be cooperative, even if you don't understand the purpose of an activity or an instruction.
- Offer encouragement instead of criticism. Urging someone to try their best will always produce better results than amplifying their faults.
- Rehearsals will end when they are scheduled to end. Then students will be dismissed to put away equipment and clean up. Please plan transportation accordingly.
- When dismissed by the director, everyone needs to put away their materials AND help with clean up of the rehearsal space (practice lot, band room, auditorium, etc).

Band Camp

Band camp is the time of the year when students learn how to march, how to move, and how to play our competitive show for the season. **Band camp is a requirement for being in marching band.** Our band camp is broken up in two sections, the first week of camp is in June from 8:00am to noon. This is the first introduction to the movement portion of marching band as well as the beginning of learning the marching band warmups and show music. The last two weeks of band camp are in the middle of July. Both weeks, camp will be held at Mater Dei High School. The first week we will rehearse from 8:00am to 4:00pm. The band boosters provide lunch for this camp. The second week, we will rehearse from 8:00am to 8:00pm. The band boosters will provide lunch and dinner the second week. We build in plenty of down time as well as some fun activities for the students during both weeks of camp such as game night, movie night, etc. This last week of camp is crucial for our program because we learn over half of our complete show. There is an incredible bond of friendship and camaraderie that is a result of attending camp as well as attending the after camp senior parties.

Trips

During the school year the band program travels to many different places to give performances. Most of these are during marching season either to a home football game or to a marching band competition. Every four years we take a major trip out-of-state to spend a few days performing and sightseeing. Any student who was a member of the marching band for the year of the trip is eligible to participate. Since all band trips are an extension of the school, all school rules apply. Students may not be eligible to participate in a band trip if they are not in good standing academically or with the band program.

General Rules

These rules and guidelines are in place to ensure the safety of all of our students, staff, and chaperones, and should be followed at all times.

- First and foremost: Always act in a way that positively represents yourself, our program, our school, and our community at all times
- Punctuality is essential. Refer to the itinerary for the schedule details. Be early for everything and help everyone stay on time.
- All aforementioned behavior expectations apply.
- If you get sick or do not feel well on the trip, please notify a chaperone or the director(s) immediately.
- Respect the property of others. Do not borrow or take another's property without permission. Additionally, watch and protect our belongings. If you see something suspicious, report it to a chaperone or director immediately.

Bus Trips

These include but are not limited to marching band competitions, football games, marching band tour, etc. All students will ride the bus to the destination.

- Students will remain seated at all times when the vehicle is in motion.
- Students will not throw items or hang out the windows at any time.
- Upon arrival at a competition, students will arrive in silence and focus on their upcoming performance.
- Students will remain in their seats until the chaperone or the director instructs them to leave the bus.
- Students will pick up ALL trash around their seats when exiting the vehicle. Leave the bus in better condition than when we arrived.

Long Distance Trips

These guidelines are for any overnight trip that the band will take including away camp, out-of-state trips, and any other trip.

- All school rules regarding student behavior, conduct, and safety apply.
- Students' parents will perform a bag check of their child(ren) before loading their student's luggage into the truck and/or bus. This is so parents assume the responsibility of what their student has packed in their luggage.
- Any student caught with any controlled or illegal substance will immediately be sent home at the expense of their parents. Dismissal from the band program will be decided between the director(s) and school administration.
- Be early for everything. Set multiple alarms amongst you and your roommates.

Staff and Chaperones

Everyone on the staff of the Mater Dei Band has been selected due to the skills and qualities they possess, and for the benefit they can bring to the band program. They should be considered an extension of the band director. They are to be treated with the highest level of courtesy and respect.

Chaperones are also extensions of the authority of the band director. Without the dedication of our chaperones and other adults that assist with the band, we could not travel or perform in the way we do. These parents work hard and the only payment they receive is our appreciation.

- Be respectful, polite, and cooperative.
- The words “Thank you” cost nothing, but mean everything.
- Do not argue with a chaperone. If you disagree, you are to do as you are asked and then discuss with the band director later.
- If a chaperone has to report a student as uncooperative, students are subject to removal from the group.

Performances

Contests and other public performances can be a wonderful and rewarding experience for everyone involved with the Mater Dei Band. Not only do they instill pride in our members allowing others to see the product of our time and effort, but we will also receive valuable feedback about our progress as individuals and as a program.

Marching Band Competitions

Competitive performances are filled with emotion because of the time, hard work, and discipline required to make our shows possible. We share hardship, discomfort, fatigue, oppressive heat, chilling cold, long bus rides, success, disappointment, and joy. Ultimately, we are not working for a magic number or placement, but for the enjoyment of pushing ourselves farther and harder than we thought possible. Please remember that every other band in the state does the exact same.

- Be positive and supportive of all the groups performing.
- Do not talk, text, or use your phone during any performance.
- Do not enter or exit the performance venue during a performance.
- During the awards ceremony, the members of the Mater Dei Band should stand with silent pride as results are announced and graciously accept those results, regardless of the outcome.
- Members are expected to show respect to those who have earned the right to score ahead of us while graciously accepting our own success.
- Members will not make fun of or disrespect any other band or school.
- **ALWAYS REMEMBER - You** may be the **ONLY** representation of Mater Dei High School that some people will ever encounter; leave a positive reflection of our school and our band.
- After the awards ceremony, all members will report back to the Mater Dei Band truck to talk with directors before being dismissed to load the bus.

Football Games

All Mater Dei home football games are played at Reitz High School's football field. The band will travel over to Reitz together and prepare for our halftime performance. The Mater Dei Band members show our support for our team, our school, and our community at every game by staying the entire length of the game.

- Upon arrival, students will begin unloading the truck and changing into uniforms
- During the 1st quarter, students will sit in the band section with their instruments and be ready to play the school song after a touchdown.
- **Only band students are allowed in the band section.**
- At the start of the 2nd quarter, the band will leave to warm up for our performance.
- The Mater Dei band will perform at halftime, or after any special ceremonies.
- After our performance, the students have the 3rd quarter off to change, use the restroom, and get food.
- **Once the 4th quarter starts, all band members need to return to the band section. If you are late, you may lose your privileges, at the director's discretion.**
- When the game is over, students will be dismissed to clean up the band section, load the truck, and leave for Mater Dei.

Uniforms

Each band member will be fitted for a uniform during band camp. Wind player's uniform consists of a jacket, bibber (or pants), gauntlets, gloves, and a shako (hat). Percussion uniforms will have just a jacket and bibbers. Guard uniforms will be different each year to fit the show theme. All uniforms are the student's responsibility to keep clean and intact throughout the entire season. Uniforms are expensive so our goal is to make our uniforms last as long as possible.

All uniforms will be kept at Mater Dei and will not be allowed to be taken home, unless specific instructions from the director(s) are given. Under no circumstance is anyone allowed to make any alterations to a uniform. If an alteration is needed, please bring it to the director(s) attention.

The marching band uniform consists of: (winds and percussion)

Jacket	provided
Bibbers (pants)	provided
Shako (hat)	provided (<i>winds only</i>)
Plume	provided (<i>winds only</i>)
Gauntlets	provided (<i>winds only</i>)
Gloves	provided (<i>winds only</i>)
Marching shoes	purchased through the band
Undershirt	purchased through the band (<i>red MD band shirt</i>)
Shorts	student provides - to be worn under the bibbers
Black socks	student provides - LONG black socks, not ankle length

Guard uniforms:

Uniform	provided
Shoes	purchased through the band
Gloves	purchased through the band
Warm up jacket	purchased through the band
Equipment bag	optional - purchased through the band

Summer Uniforms - Used for some parades and performances

Winds and Percussion

Red MD Band shirt purchased through band
Black athletic shorts student provides

Guard

White MD tank top optional purchase through the band
Black MD shorts optional purchase through the band

Appearance while in uniform

Band members are expected to wear their band uniforms properly at all times. All members are expected to observe the following items in order to present a neat personal appearance.

- Hair should be properly groomed.
- A band member's hair should not touch the jacket collar. Long hair must be worn up under the hat during the performance.
- All buttons should be buttoned and zippers zipped.
- Accessories such as sunglasses, rings, earrings, watches, and necklaces are not to be worn while in uniform.
- Heavy makeup should be avoided. Only the basics. No lipstick.
- No painted fingernails.
- **No eating or drinking in uniform**, except for water.
- Students are expected to hang their uniform back in their garment bag, so as to not create wrinkles.

Any questions regarding uniforms should be brought to the director(s) prior to the performance. Final decisions on uniform matters will be decided on by the director(s) as well.

Financial Responsibilities

Our band program is exclusively funded through membership fees and band booster fundraising events. These fees not only ensure that we are able to have a successful and productive year, but also ensure the future of this organization. The directors and boosters have gone to great lengths to minimize the amount of time, effort, and money that is required of students and parents to help run our program. **Any fees or fundraising asked of members of this program are done because it is believed that they are necessary and will greatly enhance the program.**

If you are unable to meet your financial obligations in ANY way, you must notify the director(s) so that they may understand and attempt to help you as much as reasonably possible. Both the directors and the band booster board will handle your situation discreetly and objectively and will make every effort to help.

What your membership fees and fundraising helps make possible:

Staff Funding	Music Purchases	Show Design
Props	Equipment	Instruments
Uniforms	Band Camp	Transportation
Food at several functions	Band Banquet	Awards
Trips	Music Copyrights	And So Much More!!!

Membership Fee for the 2026-2027 Marching Season:

\$400

New members might also need to purchase the following items as well (some members will have these items from winter guard or junior band).

- Red MD Band shirt
- Black marching band shoes
- Guard warm up jacket
- Guard shoes
- Guard gloves

Fundraisers

The Mater Dei Band Boosters raise the money we need to operate every year through fundraising. The fundraisers we participate in and/or host are largely based on a donation of time as opposed to selling items.

The fundraisers that we are looking at for the 2026-2027 school year include:

- **Fall Festival Booth and Parking lots (required for each family)**
- Smoked Rib Sale
- Mater Dei Donation Drive
- Car Wash
- Gift Card Sales and Give Back nights at local restaurants
- Mater Dei Craft Fair
- Ford Center Concessions
- Chili Cook-off

We ask all families, students, and parents to participate in their fair share of these events.

Parent Involvement

Parents are some of the greatest assets that we have as a band organization. Without the assistance and cooperation of our band parents, there would be no way to reach the level of success that we wish to achieve.

Parents can be involved in our organization in many ways:

1. **Attend Band Booster meetings** - Meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 6:30pm in the Mater Dei band room for about an hour. All band parents/guardians are encouraged to attend these important meetings. During the meetings we discuss current band events, cover band announcements, and make decisions that affect the future direction of the program.
2. **Volunteer for parent committees** - There are many committees that allow parents to be directly involved with the students as well as behind the scenes. We are always looking for parents to assist with the following:
 - a. **Chaperoning** - These parents travel with the band to competitions, parades, and other events. These parents help supervise students to ensure their safety, readiness, and proper behavior.
 - b. **Uniforms (maintenance and fitting)** - These parents help fit students for uniforms and make adjustments and repairs to keep our uniforms in great shape.

- c. **Transportation** - There are opportunities each weekend during our marching season to drive our equipment trucks to games and competitions.
 - d. **Pit Crew (equipment handling)** - The pit crew helps move equipment to and from the trucks and on and off the field. Some competitions even have “Best Pit Crew” awards presented during the awards ceremony, which we have won a few times!
 - e. **Meals** - Meals and snacks need to be given to the students on competition days as well as during the 1st week of July band camp at MD. You would help plan, prepare, serve, and clean up these meals.
- 3. Be supportive of the band program and your child’s participation by:**
- a. Helping your child be prepared and punctual for every rehearsal and performance.
 - b. Notifying the director(s) if your child is to be absent or late for a rehearsal or performance as soon as possible. This needs to be done in advance unless there is an emergency situation.
 - c. Encouraging your child to practice at home and help them find a quiet place to do so.
 - d. Showing your interest and support in your child’s music study by enthusiastically attending every performance possible.
 - e. Discussing with the director(s) and staff anything that will help them better understand and be able to serve the needs of your child.
 - f. Support and encourage your child to take private lessons.
 - g. Talk up the band to your friends and family, especially if they have children who might someday be in the band. Invite them to join you at all of our music events!
 - h. Make arrangements for your child to have transportation to and from practices, competitions, football games, etc.

Communication

Communication is key to a smooth and successful season. The director(s) will communicate all of the necessary information regarding travel time, rehearsal schedules, itineraries, etc. in a timely manner. We ask that parents do the same in the event of any conflicts that may arise.

The band’s website is a great resource for students and parents to find answers to any question they might have. www.mdband.org

Additionally, we use Remind to text out announcements to students and parent’s phones. This is a free service and we require all students who have a phone to sign up for the season. Parents are also welcome to sign up for our Remind as well. Instructions on how to sign up are on the band’s website.

Each week during the marching season, I will email out an itinerary for Saturday’s competition, reminders of fundraising events, meals needed for the students, rehearsal times, and any other important details for the week. Please be sure to check your email on a weekly basis for important information each week.

Instrument Care and Maintenance

Each member is responsible for the care and maintenance for their instrument, whether it’s a personal instrument or a school owned instrument. When an instrument is not well maintained it can cause expensive damage to the instrument.

- Instruments need to be checked and serviced at least once a year. This ensures that the instrument is in good playing condition and will reduce long term repair costs
- Have the proper materials to maintain your instrument including valve oil, slide grease, slide oil, cork grease, cleaning swab, cleaning rod, etc.
- If using a school owned, the user is responsible to return the instrument in proper playing condition when the year is over.

Awards and Letters

Students will be recognized for their accomplishments during the year at our awards banquet in the Spring. We hope all students strive to achieve these honors. Middle School students who participated in any of the band activities including marching band and pep band, will receive chevrons after meeting the requirements below. Letters are awarded if they participate while attending Mater Dei High School. Students

Mater Dei High School Band Letter - Students will receive a letter award in band after completing the requirements below. Activities are cumulative for students lettering for the first time.

1. A total of two semesters in the concert band class
2. One season in the Mater Dei marching band without unexcused absences
3. **Plus TWO of the following:**
 - a. Private lessons for at least one semester (5 months).
 - b. 75% attendance during Pep Band season.
 - c. 75% attendance at Junior Band rehearsals as a Mentor.
 - d. Participation in Solo and Ensemble in at least one event.
 - e. Section Leader or Drum Major in marching band.
 - f. Participation in some other musical activity approved by the director (ie: EPYO, Jazz Band, Musical pit orchestra, etc.)

In addition to these requirements, students must be a member in good standing according to the guidelines set forth in this handbook.

Mater Dei High School Guard Letter - Students will receive a letter award in guard after completing the requirements below. Activities are cumulative for students lettering for the first time.

1. One season in the Mater Dei marching band without any unexcused absences.
2. One season in the Mater Dei winter guard program without any unexcused absences.

Mater Dei High School Pep Band Patch - Students will receive a pep band patch after participating in the Mater Dei pep band. Students must have 75% attendance at games in order to receive their patch. Patches are awarded after the student's first season as a Mater Dei Freshman, or after their first year as a Mater Dei High School student. Middle School students and students who already have their patch, will receive a chevron

Winter Guard Patch - Students will receive a winter guard patch after completing a season with the winter guard and without having any unexcused absences. Patches are awarded after the student's first season as a Mater Dei Freshman, or after their first year as a Mater Dei High School student. Middle School students and students who already have their patch, will receive a chevron.

Winter Percussion Patch - Students will receive a winter percussion patch after completing a season with the winter percussion and without having any unexcused absences. Patches are awarded after the student's first season as a Mater Dei Freshman, or after their first year as a Mater Dei High School student. Middle School students and students who already have their patch, will receive a chevron.

All-State Member Award - This award honors students who were selected by audition to participate in an All-State ensemble (All-State band, All-State Honors band, or Jazz Band). The names of participating students are placed on a plaque in recognition of their achievements.

State Solo and Ensemble Award - This honor is awarded to students who have qualified for ISSMA Solo and Ensemble at the State level.

Outstanding Auxiliary Member Award - This award honors the member(s) of the guard that exemplifies excellence in performance and leadership. This award is open to any junior or senior guard member. This award is decided by the directors.

Director's Award - The Director's Award for Band honors the most outstanding members of the junior high school band. The award is decided on by the directors.

John Philip Sousa Award - The pinnacle of achievement in a high school band program. The Sousa Award recognizes outstanding dedication and superior musicianship. The award has become a nationwide symbol of excellence in musical achievement. This award is given to one senior and is voted on by the directors.

Patrick S. Gilmore Award - The award honors additional students in the high school band. Because only one student per year can receive the Sousa Award, and more students may deserve recognition, the Gilmore award allows directors to honor the same qualities of musicianship and dedication in other deserving students.

Kiwanis "Arion" Award for Band - This award honors the band student who most exemplifies service to the program, leadership, musicianship, and a student's dedication. Senior band members are voted upon by the students of the band to receive this award.

Louis Armstrong Award - The Louis Armstrong Jazz Award was introduced in 1974, with the approval of his widow, Lucille Armstrong, to honor outstanding jazz students. Because the Armstrong Award recognizes the highest achievement in jazz performance at each school, it is given to the most deserving senior student. This award is decided by the directors.

Woody Herman Award - The Woody Herman Jazz Award was created in 1988, shortly after Herman's death, to honor outstanding jazz students. The Herman Jazz Award may be given to multiple deserving students. This award is decided by the directors.

2026 Marching Band Schedule

(updated 4/16/26)

All changes to the schedule will be emailed to parents

These are the dates for our rehearsals, competitions, games, and parades for this season. **NOT ALL TUESDAY/THURSDAY REHEARSALS ARE LISTED, JUST THE HIGHLIGHTS OR CHANGES.** Please refer to the etiquette section of the handbook for information on absences. Please feel free to email me at afield@evdio.org with any questions or scheduling conflicts. **Find more information on our website at mdband.org.**

*****Note: Full band rehearsals will be every Tuesday and Thursday from 3:00-6:00pm beginning on Tuesday, July 28th. Also, sectionals will be on Wednesdays from 3-5, beginning on August 19th Newbie sectionals will be from 5-6p.*****

June Dates:

June 1st and 2nd - (Newbies and leaders only) camp from 8a-noon

June 3rd through 5th - (Everyone) 8a-noon

July Dates:

July 13-17: MD band camp (at MD) 8a-4p. (Lunch provided)

July 20-24: Camp at MD 8a-5pm. (Lunch provided)

July 24: Parent Preview Night at 6:30 PM (teacher's parking lot)

July 28: Full Band rehearsal 3:00-6:00p (**rehearsals will continue every Tues. and Thurs. from 3:00-6:00 through the season**)

August Dates: (Full Band rehearsals every Tue. & Thurs. 3p-6p, Sectionals Wed everyone 3p-5p, and Newbies 5p-6p)

August 19: Weekly Sectionals begin. **Everyone 3p-5p. Newbies and leaders continue from 5p-5:45p**

August 22: Mini Camp / Parent Work Day 8a-4p

August 28: Football game vs. Castle

September Dates: (Full Band rehearsals every Tues & Thurs 3p-6p, Sectionals every Wed).

September 11: Football game vs. Memorial

September 12: Central Invitational

September 19: North Invitational

September 26: Reitz Invitational

October Dates: (Full Band rehearsals every Tues & Thurs 3p-6p, Sectionals every Wed).

October 2: Football game vs. Bosse (**Homecoming**)

October 3: ISSMA Invitational @ Jasper

October 9: Football game vs. Harrison (**Senior Night**)

October 10: ISSMA Regionals

October 16: Football game vs. Reitz

October 17: BOA Indianapolis Super Regional @ Lucas Oil Stadium

October 24: ISSMA Semi-State

November Dates: (Full Band rehearsals every Tues & Thurs 3p-6p, Sectionals every Wed).

November 7: ISSMA State Finals @ Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis.

HANDBOOK AGREEMENT

We have read the Mater Dei High School Band Handbook and understand all information, procedures, rules, schedules, and expectations outlined in the handbook. We agree to follow these policies and understand there may be consequences for breaking them. We will strive to be positive members of the band program in our words and actions.

Student Name: _____ (Please Print)

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____ (Please Print)

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

This contract must be signed and turned into the Band Director **by the first day of Band Camp.**