

# MGM Band Attendance Policy

This document should serve as an informational tool to help band students as well as their families plan around potential issues as it relates to attendance at band functions and how this connects to a student's successful completion of any class in the department of bands. Please feel free to set up an appointment to discuss any questions you have concerning this policy.

It is expected that members of any performing ensemble in the department of bands will attend **every** rehearsal and performance in its entirety. Students who have genuine conflicts with a rehearsal or performance should observe the procedures outlined below. After reaching high school, students must be aware of the commitment to after-school rehearsals and performances. Band is a performance class. Unexcused absences, lack of cooperation, and continued discipline infractions can result in a lowered or failing grade, denial of participation, or even dismissal from the performing group. Students ARE REQUIRED TO notify Mr. Herrington, Mr. Warren, or Mr. Knauss for an absence including requests to miss a future rehearsal or performance at least four weeks in advance. ***During the fall semester especially, we are very, very serious about attendance because of its impact on quality. A performer's presence at these rehearsals cannot be inconsistent if they expect to remain performance ready and ultimately in the performance line-up. Attendance of band rehearsals and performances has a direct correlation to success and quality for the band program. The band cannot function without its members. The success of this band is dependent on its members participating in every event all the time.***

## Attendance Philosophy/Policy

Attendance at practices and performances is mandatory. Any exception to this policy will be at the discretion of the director(s). If an emergency should arise which would cause tardiness or absence from a rehearsal or performance, you should make every attempt to notify the director(s) of the situation as soon as possible. If you have a personal conflict of importance on a rehearsal or performance **date you will need to notify the director in writing at least four weeks in advance** of the time you want your request to be considered. This will allow time for an alternate to adequately learn your assignment or the director to make adjustments. If your request is considered valid, it will be excused however, to be fair to the alternate who is learning your drill assignment, you will lose performance privileges for a minimum of one additional week even if the absence is excused. In making your request ***please be sure to give the director enough information to adequately assess the situation. "I have a family thing" is not enough information.*** We all have "family things." If it is an emergency we will be glad to help. We have families too so we know things can spring up! In general, we are **very** judicious (stingy!) about allowing students to miss performances – for any reason. Because Band is a performance oriented class, it is virtually impossible to "make up" a missed performance. If a student's absence is given "excused" status, they will be required to complete an alternate assignment to make up the missed time. It is the responsibility of the absent performer to contact the band office for that assignment.

**Remember**, any student who misses **any portion** of a rehearsal is subject to replacement for an indeterminate length of time if a qualified alternate is available. You will be mainstreamed back into the line-up as a position becomes available.

## Valid Excused Absences

1. **Personal Illness** -which will cause the student to miss a rehearsal or performance (please call the Band Office to inform us of missing due to sickness).

If a student leaves school early due to illness, he/she should call the band office and inform a band director so that rehearsal adjustments can be made. Remember, unexcused absences can lead to replacement in the performance line-up.

2. **Death of a Relative** - No prior notice needed.
3. **Observance of a Religious Holiday**
4. **National Testing- i.e. ACT, SAT** with proof of registration
5. **College Visits** – ONLY for rehearsal IF prior arrangements have been made with the Director.
6. **Emergencies** – ONLY in circumstances which, in the judgment of the band directors, constitute a good and sufficient cause for absence from band rehearsal.

### **Invalid excuses for Absences**

1. **WORK IS NOT** a valid excuse to miss school therefore it is invalid for missing rehearsals or performances. The band calendar is put together months in advance of any performance. It is the responsibility of the student to adjust his/her work schedules in order to be able to attend band events (including rehearsals).
2. **Parents and students must be aware that THE FAIR IS NOT a valid excuse to miss school therefore it is invalid for missing rehearsals or performances.** If the fair is a priority over band for any family, please consider being involved in another group on campus that does not require as much time.
3. **Concerts or shows are not valid reasons for missing a band event.** Rock bands tour all over the country all year long. Attending one of these concerts should not be considered a “once in a lifetime” experience. In fact, often times bands come and perform at the same venue year after year (this includes Bayfest). The experiences a student has in band both at rehearsals and performances simply cannot be redone and therefore **SHOULD** be considered a once in a lifetime experience.

***Any absence from after-school rehearsal may lead to the performer being held out of that week’s performance. Any absence from a performance may lead to a performer being pulled from the performance line-up for an indeterminate length of time – possibly for the remainder of the season. The directors will not divert teaching time from those who have been in attendance in order to mainstream those who have not been in attendance back into the performance line-up.***

### **Grading**

Because any performing arts class is considered to be “co-curricular,” which means a portion of the class is held during the school day while the remainder of the class is held outside the traditional school day. In other words, this course generally requires students to participate in extra rehearsals and performances beyond the school day. As such, a student’s grade is directly linked to attendance at these functions. Listed here is an explanation of students grading criteria for these performing arts classes in the Department of Bands.

Any student who is excused from a performance will be required to complete a “make-up” assignment when they return to school. These assignments will be distributed by the Band Office prior to an absence if prior notice is given otherwise, the student will be given the assignment upon their return to school NOTE: All school policies regarding the amount of time a student has to complete their make-up work are applicable. Please refer to the Mary G. Montgomery High School Student Handbook for these criteria. A person who misses half of a practice will be counted as absent.

Please remember to follow up on the status of your request. Please do not assume that completing the form means your request has been approved. We must stress that a completed form that has been turned in DOES NOT automatically mean the absence has been excused, EVEN IF you have met the necessary time requirements for the notification (4 weeks). We will evaluate the total number of absence requests for that particular rehearsal/performance when determining which/how many absence requests we can grant.

# 2020-2021 Attendance Policy Signature Form

My signature below indicates that I have received and read the MGM Band Attendance Policies. Further, I agree to adhere to these policies while registered for the Band Department classes and performing ensembles.

Student Name (printed) \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_