

IV. ATTENDANCE

(Taken from the Marching Band Handbook)

ATTENDANCE PHILOSOPHY

Maximum attendance is absolutely essential to the success of the marching band. Our pursuit of excellence in performance can only be best realized given maximum attendance that permits effective use of rehearsal time. We schedule the minimum number of rehearsals needed to sustain the quality and educational validity of our style and scope of band program. Thus, no rehearsal is *extra* or *unnneeded*.

Unnecessary individual absences have adverse effects on the success of the entire program. It is impossible to make changes and perfect the show when there is an unnecessary *hole*. A hole affects the absent person AND all who march near that spot. No matter how well a particular individual knows the show, the success of the whole process is interactive, dependent on everyone to be performed precisely and effectively.

Detailed planning results in a schedule released (typically months) in advance that is updated as needed to facilitate planning for all. The schedule and report times are reviewed each week. Schedules and updates are on the marching band website and are sent out electronically throughout the season and school year.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

We have adopted a standard, simple, and clear attendance policy, defining minimum standards essential for the educational success of the Mt. Lebanon Marching Band as a whole and of its individual student members.

All practices and performances are mandatory. Any request for an exception must be submitted via parent email *and approved* by the director **one full-week (7 days) in advance** of the conflicting date, except in emergencies.

The decision whether or not an absence is excused or unexcused is that of the band director. For clarification, the following absences are among those categorized as **UNEXCUSED**:

- Work. As an educator, the band director strongly supports work experience under reasonable parameters during high school. Many band members work. Nearly all employers cooperate when planning their schedules if notified well in advance of scheduled school-related events, including band practices and performances. The band member is responsible for making these necessary arrangements in advance.
- Spectator at music concerts or sporting events
- Routine medical or dental appointments
- Non-emergency medical specialist appointments
- Homework/studying
- Senior or other picture appointments

- Routine Scout or other club/group activity meeting or events
- Routine family chores, including non-emergency baby-sitting
- Birthday celebrations (band member or family member)
- College Fairs/Visits
- Exchange student activities
- Driver's Education classes
- Other evening classes

SUMMER REHEARSALS AND EVENTS

Vacations, summer sports league games, special family events and illness are excused absences. Work is not. Concerts and spectator sports are not. Each absence must be verified. Members are asked to submit an absence awareness form at the beginning of the season. Any changes should be brought to the attention of the director seven days in advance of a known absence from a summer rehearsal or event as a courtesy to help our record keeping and rehearsal planning.

BAND CAMP AND FALL REHEARSALS – ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY

UNEXCUSED ABSENCE FROM ANY SCHEDULED REHEARSAL

- **FIRST OFFENSE:** Warning and guardian notification.
- **SECOND OFFENSE:** Warning and guardian notification in writing. Suspension from following performance.
- **THIRD OFFENSE:** Suspension from participation for the balance of the season.

UNEXCUSED ABSENCE FROM ANY PERFORMANCE

- **FIRST OFFENSE:** Suspension from participation for the balance of the season.