



Meadowbrook High School
Instrumental Music
Department

Handbook

2009 - 2010

FOREWORD

The instrumental music program at Meadowbrook is one of tradition and excellence. The band represents a large, colorful, visible, and highly disciplined segment of the total school, and is an important part of the complete educational program. Our performances, including sporting events, concerts, parades, adjudicated events, and other community activities, add a great sense of spirit not only to Meadowbrook Schools, but also to the communities included in the Rolling Hills Local School District.

The focus of the Meadowbrook Instrumental Music program is musicianship. This, along with a sense of responsibility and pride, help to make the Meadowbrook Band program apart of the core curriculum in our school district.

To those of you who are new to the high school band program, we are looking forward to having you participate in one of the most active, exciting, and successful activities at Meadowbrook High School. This is an activity that does require extra work and effort, however is also very rewarding throughout the year.

To our returning band members, realize that you are the foundation on which we are building this band program. It will be through your leadership, effort, and setting the standard for our young band members that will be the source of growth here at Meadowbrook.

**Welcome to the 2009 - 2010
Meadowbrook Instrumental Music Department.**

High School Band

Students enrolled in the high school band have three performing venues: Football Marching Band, Competition Marching Band, and Symphonic Band. Courses are graded upon attendance (50%), musicality, participation, and attitude.

- **Marching Band:** Students enrolled in high school band have the option of participating in the Meadowbrook Marching Band. The Marching Band is more demanding musically and physically. Required performances include all Marching Band Competitions, all home and away Varsity football games, the Beat Cambridge pep rally, and all scheduled community parades and performances. Rehearsals for the Competition Marching Band are held after school three nights a week, therefore students participating in fall sports or extra-curricular activities would be unable to participate. Students are required to attend Pre-Camp, Band Camp, as well as all scheduled rehearsals during the summer months.
- **Symphonic Band:** All students enrolled in high school band participate in the Symphonic Band. Required performances include all scheduled concerts, the OMEA District Large Group Adjudicated Event, the OMEA State Large Group Adjudicated Event when applicable, and the Memorial Day parades.

Jazz Band

Jazz Band is a select group of band members selected to perform in a small jazz ensemble setting. Students would be exposed to various styles of music not often covered in Symphonic Band, such as jazz, swing, bebop, reggae, funk, and rock. Students have opportunities to play instruments other than their primary band instrument, as well as instruments that are not commonly played in Symphonic Band (electric guitar, bass guitar, keyboard, and drum set.) Students must have director permission to sign up for Jazz Band and any student not in high school band must audition before joining.

Pep Band

Pep Band is a volunteer group formed to play at Varsity basketball games. Required performances include all Home Varsity Boys Basketball games. An 80% attendance ratio is required to earn the pep band award given at the Music Awards Banquet.

Solo & Ensemble Contest

Students have the option of participating in the OMEA Solo & Ensemble Contest. Students prepare solo or small ensemble works to be performed for a judge. Students are given a rating of I, II, III, IV, or V, based on their performance. OMEA Scale and Rudiment requirements are also judged. Solo & Ensemble is an excellent opportunity for individualistic instruction and improvement.

LIDS

Lids is a unique performing ensemble in the instrumental music department. Founded in 2004, the group meets during class on scheduled days and makes music from anything but musical instruments. Lids members are selected by audition immediately following the Marching Band season.

Grading Policy

- Performances: 50%
- Music Requirements: 30%
- Daily participation: 10%
- Attitude/Behavior: 10%

- Musical Assessment: Students will periodically be required to take playing tests in order to monitor their musical development. Music selections can range from scales, lip slurs, or excerpts from performance selections.

Discipline Policy

Classroom Rules

- Be prompt for class/rehearsal/performance meeting time.
- Come prepared for rehearsal each day.
- Be respectful of your's and other people's property.
- Use proper rehearsal etiquette at **all times**.
- Follow all Meadowbrook High School rules and regulations.

Classroom Rules apply to all Meadowbrook Band functions, including class, rehearsals, performances, and bus trips.

Rehearsal Etiquette

- Be seated, instrument assembled, music for rehearsal out, and ready to begin warm-up 3 minutes after the tardy bell.
- MHS Bands will warm up as a group, not individually. Therefore, students may not continually play their instruments at all times. Please wait until the conductor begins class to begin playing your instrument. When rehearsal ends, the sound ends. Additional sectional or individual rehearsal time must be set up with the directors before rehearsal.
- When the director comes to the podium, all talking and playing stops immediately.
- Talking during rehearsal should be limited, and should pertain to the rehearsal in some way. Social discussions should not take place.
- If the director is talking, students are not talking.
- No students in the band office unless authorized by a director. This includes using the phone, making copies, etc.

Concert Etiquette

- Students are to remain attentive and silent while one of the ensembles is performing.
- Students should be in the uniform provided for the duration of the performance.
- There should be no cell phones, mp3 players, or any other electronic devices used during a concert.
- Students are to remain for the entirety of the concert. Do not leave after your portion of the concert is complete.
- Do not move around or leave the auditorium during a performance. Please wait until between songs to exit.
- There is to be no food, drink, or gum in the auditorium.
- Applauding for the groups is very appropriate, however shouting, whistling, or other obnoxious noise making is unexceptionable.

Attendance Policy

- All performances of the marching band, symphonic band, or jazz band are mandatory and are figured in as 50% of your final grade.
- Absences can be excused by turning in an Excuse Form. These must be in **24 hours before a rehearsal, or 2 weeks before a performance.** Family emergencies or serious illness can be excused at a later date.
- Illness excuses must be accompanied by a doctor's excuse.

Performances

- Home and Away Football Games (marching band only)
- Competitions (marching band only)
- Holiday Concert - December
- High School Solo & Ensemble - February (optional)
- Winter Concert - February/March
- OMEA District Large Group Adjudicated Event - March
- OMEA State Large Group Adjudicated Event - April (when necessary)
- Spring Concert - April/May
- Memorial Day Parades (all band members) - May
- Other community parade and performances

Student Drop-Off/Pick-Up

- Students should be dropped off and picked up in a timely matter for all scheduled events occurring outside of the regular school day. Report times for all marching band events are listed on the Marching Band Schedule. The directors will establish a dismissal time for home football games, and a return time for all away football games and marching band competitions. Please make arrangements to drop off your student on time, and to pick them up in a timely manner. Likewise, all concert band, jazz band, and pep band performances will have a report time and pick up time. In the past we have had problems with students who have been left at the school well past the pick-up time. While emergencies do understandably occur, we will follow our policy of calling for a Guernsey County Sheriff escort for any student who repeatedly fails to be picked up in a timely manner.
- For liability purposes, any student planning on leaving from an event with another student's parents must have written permission in order to be released. Students without a note will be required to ride the bus home.
- In the event of an emergency during a scheduled band event, you may contact Steve Box at 740-705-6717 or J.P. Wray at 740-705-1174.

Florida

- Every four years, Meadowbrook High School Band takes an educational trip to Orlando, Florida. Included in this trip are cultural and musical enrichment opportunities, usually including performances as a marching band, symphonic band, or a jazz band.
- This trip is a privilege, and like any privilege, it is earned. Beyond financial requirements, there are academic and behavioral requirements. Students must be in good academic standing for the school year. Students may also lose this privilege with inappropriate behavior during the school year at the discretion of the MHS Music Staff and Administration.
- Next scheduled trip: 2010 - 2011 school year.

New York

- The Meadowbrook Jazz Band and Brook Singers go on an education trip to New York, New York every three years. Included in the trip are musical and cultural experiences and enrichment not available locally.
- This trip is a privilege, and like any privilege, it is earned. Beyond financial requirements, there are academic and behavioral requirements. Students must be in good academic standing for the school year. Students may also lose this privilege with inappropriate behavior during the school year at the discretion of the MHS Music Staff and Administration.
- Next scheduled trip: 2011 - 2012 school year.

Other Experiences

- The Meadowbrook Instrumental Music Department takes many other trips to concerts, performances, and experiences that cannot be done locally.