



MADISON SOUTHERN BANDS

MARTINA SANDERS, DIRECTOR

Madison Southern High School

279 Glades Road

Berea, KY 40403

(859) 625-6148 x6206

Martina.Sanders@Madison.kyschools.us

Dear Marching Eagles and Families,

Welcome to the 2026 marching band season! We are truly excited to have you as part of this outstanding program.

Our mission is to continue building a tradition of excellence through our core values: Pride, Discipline, and Respect. Just as importantly, we are committed to fostering a positive, supportive, and inclusive environment where students can grow as musicians, teammates, and individuals.

Marching band is a unique experience that teaches responsibility, teamwork, perseverance, and pride in accomplishment. Every member plays an important role in our success, and together we create something meaningful and memorable.

This handbook is designed to provide clarity about expectations, procedures, and policies so that students and families feel informed and supported throughout the season. Please review it carefully and complete all required forms.

Thank you for your commitment to the Marching Eagles. We are looking forward to a fantastic season together!

Respectfully,

Martina Sanders

Proud Director of the Marching Eagles



2026

Madison Southern Marching Eagles

2026 MARCHING BAND HANDBOOK

Mr. Jeremy Phillips, Principal

Ms. Martina Sanders, Director of Bands

Program Philosophy

The Marching Eagles Band is built on:

- **Teamwork** – Every member contributes to the success of the group
- **Responsibility** – Preparation and accountability matter
- **Respect** – For each other, staff, and our community
- **Growth** – Musically, personally, and collectively

We strive to create an environment where students feel challenged, supported, and proud of their accomplishments.

Attendance Expectations

Marching band is a team-based activity, and consistent attendance is essential for both individual and group success.

Expectations

Students are expected to attend:

- Band camp (3 weeks)
- Weekly rehearsals
- Sectionals
- Football games
- Competitions and performances
- Additional scheduled events

Communication

We understand that conflicts or unexpected situations may arise. When they do:

- Please communicate with the director as early as possible
- Submit requests for absences in writing at least one week in advance when possible
- Questions about whether an absence is excused should be directed to the Director BEFORE the absence.

Excused Absences May Include:

- Serious illness (with documentation)
- Family emergencies
- Other significant circumstances reviewed individually

Unexcused Absences May Include:

- Avoidable scheduling conflicts (appointments, vacations, etc.)
- Work conflicts
- Social or recreational events

Important Note

Attendance impacts readiness. If a student misses significant instruction, adjustments may be made to ensure they feel confident and prepared for performances.

Our goal is always to support students while maintaining fairness and consistency for the entire ensemble.

Tardiness

- Students should arrive on campus **at least 10 minutes early** to an event or rehearsal to be prepared
 - Being late impacts the group and rehearsal efficiency
 - Repeated tardiness may be addressed similarly to absences
-

Participation & Accountability

Membership in the Marching Eagles comes with shared responsibility.

If expectations are not met:

- Staff will work with the student to improve the situation
- Repeated issues may affect performance opportunities
- Continued challenges may lead to further review of participation

Our focus is always on helping students succeed while maintaining a strong and fair program.

Academic Eligibility

Students must meet school academic standards:

- Minimum **2.0 GPA (C average)**
- No more than **one failing grade**

If academic concerns arise:

- Students may temporarily sit out of performances
 - Academic improvement is the priority
 - Support and communication are encouraged
-

Band Camp

Band camp is essential for learning music and drill.

Expectations

- Full attendance is strongly expected
- Students should come prepared physically and mentally

Preparation Tips

- Wear proper athletic shoes
- Dress for weather conditions
- Stay hydrated
- Eat well before rehearsals
- Go outside!! Getting acclimated to the sun will prepare you for success during band camp.

Band camp is physically demanding, and students should take care of their health to fully participate. Hydration starts the day before camp. Just a reminder to kids that they can't come to camp already dehydrated and expect to hydrate.

Travel Expectations

When traveling, students represent:

- Madison Southern High School
- The Marching Eagles
- Our community

Expectations

- Follow all school and band rules
- Show respect to peers, staff, and others
- Remain with the group unless given permission

If behavior becomes a concern, families will be contacted and appropriate steps will be taken.

Competitions

Competitions are opportunities to:

- Showcase progress
- Receive feedback
- Grow as performers

Student Expectations

- Be prepared and punctual
- Support fellow performers
- Represent the band with professionalism

Success is measured not only by results, but by effort, growth, and teamwork.

General Band Guidelines

Students are expected to:

- Arrive prepared and on time
- Wear appropriate rehearsal attire
- Keep facilities clean
- Treat equipment and property with care
- Use respectful language and behavior
- Follow school policies at all times

These expectations help maintain a positive and productive environment.

Uniform Care

The uniform represents pride in our program.

Guidelines

- Treat all uniform items with care
- Wear all required pieces correctly
- Maintain cleanliness and organization
- Replace lost or damaged items if necessary

Uniformity helps create a strong visual identity for the group.

Instrument Care

Students are responsible for:

- Maintaining their instrument in good condition
- Reporting issues promptly

If damage occurs due to negligence, repair costs may be the responsibility of the student/family.

Attitude & Team Culture

A positive attitude is essential to the success of the program.

We encourage students to:

- Support one another
- Stay open to feedback
- Approach challenges with determination
- Take pride in improvement

Marching band is about growth, teamwork, and shared success. Every member contributes to the culture we create.

Communication & Partnership

We value strong communication with families.

- Questions or concerns should be directed to the director
 - Open, respectful communication helps us support students effectively
 - We appreciate your partnership in maintaining a positive experience for all
-

Letter of Intent & Agreement

By participating in the Marching Eagles, students agree to:

- Contribute positively to the team
- Attend rehearsals and performances to the best of their ability
- Communicate conflicts appropriately
- Maintain academic eligibility
- Respect peers, staff, and program expectations
- Represent the band with pride and integrity

Parents agree to:

- Support attendance and preparation
 - Communicate with staff when needed
 - Encourage a positive and respectful experience
-

Final Thoughts

Being part of the Marching Eagles is both a privilege and an opportunity. Students will develop skills, friendships, and memories that last a lifetime.

We are proud of the tradition of excellence in this program and excited to continue building it together.

Once a Marching Eagle, always a Marching Eagle.

ELECTRONIC FORMS FOR COMPLETION PRIOR TO SIGNING LETTER OF INTENT

MARCHING EAGLE REGISTRATION INFORMATION FORM

The following information is collected by the boosters. All information is private and only used for booster records. Please complete the form below by scanning the QR code or following the link below so we can update your information.

[Click here for Marching Eagle Registration Information Form](#)



MARCHING EAGLE PARENT/VOLUNTEER CODE OF CONDUCT

The following is intended to ensure clear expectations are communicated regarding the behavior, integrity and respect to ensure a positive and encouraging experience for everyone involved. Please complete the form below by scanning the QR code or following the link.

[Click Here for Marching Eagle Parent / Volunteer Code of Conduct](#)



MARCHING EAGLE PUBLICATION FORM FOR PHOTOS, VIDEOS INTERVIEWS AND WEB PUBLICATION

The following form regarding usage of photos, videos, etc. of your student is required by the Madison County School district to be completed by parents annually. Please complete the form below by scanning the QR code or following the link.

[Click here for Marching Eagle Publication Form for Photos, Videos, Interviews and Web Publication](#)



MARCHING EAGLE FAIR SHARE CONTRIBUTION GUIDELINES AND PAYMENT INFORMATION

The following form is to share different options and plans for paying the annual Marching Eagle fair share contribution. Please complete the form below by scanning the QR code or following the link.

[Click here for the Marching Eagle Fair Share Contribution Guidelines and Agreement](#)



MSHS BAND EMERGENCY MEDICAL FORM

Note: All information submitted on this form will only be used by the directors, staff and necessary members of the Madison Southern Band Boosters, in support of the Madison Southern Band Program.

I HEREBY CONSENT FOR A QUALIFIED PHYSICIAN OR SURGEON TO EXAMINE, DIAGNOSE, PRESCRIBE AND PERFORM TREATMENT, INCLUDING SURGERY, WHICH IS DEEMED MEDICALLY NECESSARY FOR THE WELFARE OF:

STUDENT'S FULL NAME _____

I GIVE MY PERMISSION FOR THE ABOVE NAMED TO TAKE:

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Tylenol (Acetaminophen) | ☐ Advil (Ibuprofen) |
| ☐ Imodium | ☐ Benadryl |
| ☐ Dramamine | ☐ Midol |
| ☐ Tums | ☐ None |
| ☐ OTHER _____ | |

Note: Medications will not be given under any circumstance without prior permission from a parent/guardian. No student is permitted to have prescription or non-prescription medication on his/her person at any time.

Is it possible that your child may need ***emergency medication immediately*** after performing on the field? YES or NO

Explain _____

Please list any medical concerns and/or medications the student currently takes: _____

Please list any known ALLERGIES?

Medications _____

Food _____

Environmental _____

Date of last tetanus inoculation: _____

INSURANCE COMPANY _____ POLICY NUMBER _____

SUBSCRIBER NAME _____ DATE OF BIRTH _____

SUBSCRIBER NUMBER _____ GROUP NUMBER _____

STUDENT'S PHYSICIAN _____ PHYSICIAN'S PHONE _____

PLEASE ATTACH A COPY OF YOUR CURRENT INSURANCE CARD (FRONT AND BACK)

In the event of a medical emergency related to the minor child listed above, I hereby give ANY HOSPITAL my written consent to render whatever Emergency Medical Care may be deemed appropriate by the hospital's Emergency Medical staff, until I (or my spouse) can be contacted. If the hospital finds it necessary to contract various health care professionals for their services, and the following providers are not employees of the hospital, but are instead independents, contracted to provide services for the patient and are legally responsible for their services, they also fall under this release. I UNDERSTAND THAT NO ONE CONNECTED WITH THE MADISON SOUTHERN HIGH SCHOOL OR THE MADISON SOUTHERN BAND BOOSTERS, INC. ASSUMES LIABILITY FOR ANY INJURY INCURRED BY THE PARTICIPANT. I agree to pay all costs incurred by the participant for the hospital bills, physician fees and ambulance fee.

I understand that someone in authority will make every attempt to contact me using the information on the Participation Form in the event that my child is injured and is taken to a hospital for treatment.

DATE _____ PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE _____

RELATIONSHIP TO STUDENT _____ PRINT NAME _____



Letter of Intent & Participation Agreement

The purpose of this contract is to establish an agreement between _____ and the MSHS band program for the purpose of efficient and successful rehearsal, performance and conduct.

Agreement

- I understand and believe that I am a very important member of the Madison Southern Marching Eagle Band and that the success or failure of the band is a direct result of my attitude, my preparation, my effort, and my personal performance at each rehearsal and competition.
- I have read and agree to abide by all rules, policies, and procedures as noted in the Marching Band Handbook. I understand that attendance at all rehearsals and performances are mandatory and I agree to be present.
- I agree to support my excused absences with appropriate documentation from the doctor etc. I also understand that I may not be given the opportunity to perform in the next competition even if the absence was excused.
- I understand that an unexcused absence will result in NOT being permitted to perform in the next competition. I understand that 2 unexcused absences will result in dismissal from the band.
- I understand that a written statement must be submitted for approval at least 1 week prior to the conflict for extenuating circumstances related to unexcused absences.
- I agree to be prompt and punctual to each rehearsal and performance event.
- I agree to be always prepared. This includes having all equipment in working performance order.
- I agree to wear the proper designated clothing for rehearsal and to take care of myself follow common sense guidelines (never attend rehearsal on an empty stomach, drink plenty of liquids, proper footwear, etc.)
- I agree to treat the uniform with utmost respect and be prepared with ALL parts of the uniform on competition days including uniform, shoes, socks, gloves, hat, plume, gauntlets, show shirt, wind suit, etc.
- I agree to abide by the decisions of the director.
- I agree to uphold the standard of excellence and reputation that this band has established, and I agree to take great pride in being a Marching Eagle.
- Failure to comply with the above expectations may result in dismissal from the band.
- I have read the marching band handbook and this agreement, and I agree to carry out the stated policies, procedures, and expectations to the best of my ability.

Parent and Student please check ALL items before signing your contract

I HAVE COMPLETED AND SUBMITTED ALL THE REQUIRED PRINTED FORMS:

☐ **MSHS Band Emergency Medical Form**

I HAVE COMPLETED AND SUBMITTED ALL THE REQUIRED ELECTRONIC FORMS:

☐ **MSHS Marching Eagle Registration Information Form**

☐ **MSHS Marching Eagles Parent / Volunteer Code of Conduct**

☐ **Social Media and Confidentiality Form**

☐ **MSHS Marching Eagle Fair Share Contribution Guidelines Agreement**

Student Signature_____ Date_____

Parent Signature_____ Date_____

The Marching Eagle Band Program has a long tradition of excellence and by becoming a member of this organization, you accept the responsibility of upholding its traditions for everyone who has come before you and those who will be here when you are gone. Once a Marching Eagle, always a Marching Eagle.