

# Andover High School Marching Huskies



Fall 2008

**Marching Band Handbook**

## HOW TO REGISTER FOR MARCHING BAND:

### Step 1:

Carefully look over the information in this packet with your parent(s). Make sure you get all of your questions answered. We want you to be informed about all expectations and procedures before moving on to Step 2.

### Step 2:

Make a FIRM COMMITMENT to this organization. Participation in all scheduled practices and performances is expected. You must commit to excellence for us to achieve our goals.

### Step 3:

Understand what part of the band you belong in. Look in the section of this packet titled “Parts of the Band”. This may seem silly, but it is an important step!

### Step 4:

Fill out all necessary forms listed below with a parent/guardian signature. Turn them in to the Band office at Andover HS or Oakview MS or the activities office @ Andover HS.

- Marching Huskies Registration Form
- Marching Huskies Payment Form (different for each section of the band)
- MSHSL Eligibility Form – a new form must be signed once each year. 2008 forms will be available in August (due at same time as district activity fee).
- Health Care Emergency Record – once each year.
- Sports Qualifying Physical – must be 3 years current throughout the season and on file with the Andover HS Activities Office.

### Step 5:

Mark your calendar for the start of practice. This year, the first summer practice and full rehearsal will be Tuesday, June 17<sup>th</sup>. We will have additional section practice before the start of full rehearsals in late July. The most current performance and rehearsal calendar is always available at [www.andoverbands.org](http://www.andoverbands.org)

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## COMMITMENT

Commitment is what transforms a promise into reality. It is the words that speak boldly of your intentions, and the actions which speak louder than the words. It is making the time when there is none; coming through time after time after time, year after year after year. Commitment is the stuff character is made of; the power to change the face of things. It is the daily triumph of integrity over skepticism. It knows the difference between being patient and being bored. It is what separates those “who can” from those “who didn’t.”

## **PHILOSOPHY OF THE MARCHING BAND**

Our goal is to provide students with a meaningful, enjoyable and rewarding experience through musical growth, dedication, student leadership, loyalty, and service learning. We represent Andover High School and the community as ambassadors of excellence, pride, character, respect and class.

## **SECTIONS OF THE BAND**

Our marching band is made of three parts. It is the harmony and coordination of these sections that creates excellence and a product that is rewarding for members and spectators alike. The following is a short description of the different sections.

**THE WIND SECTION:** This section is made up of all regular band instruments. Most common are piccolo, flutes, clarinets, saxophones (Alto/Tenor), mellophones (marching French horns), trumpets, trombones, baritones and tubas. This section of the band produces most of the music that you hear. They are responsible for a majority of the drill forms that you see on the field. They wear the traditional uniforms complete with gloves, shoes and shako hat. Students playing a wind instrument in marching band must be registered for a music course at Andover HS terms 1 – 4 in 2008.

**THE PERCUSSION SECTION:** This section is made up of many concert percussion instruments as well as the marching percussion instruments. It is split up into two sections; the front line and the battery. Instrumentation for these sections is as follows. Front Line: All concert instruments used in percussion in an indoor setting. Mallet percussion (bells, xylophone, marimba, vibes), timpani, cymbals, sound effects, etc. It may also include such things as guitar, acoustic bass and even drum set. The Battery percussion is the “meat and potatoes” of the percussion section. It includes marching snare drum, marching tenors and marching bass drums. It may also include a marching cymbal line. The drum-line is responsible for providing pulse and color to the music. They are also responsible for providing a cadence to march to. They wear the traditional uniforms complete with shoes and shako hat. Students playing a percussion instrument in marching band must be registered for a music course at Andover HS terms 1 – 4 in 2008.

**THE COLOR GUARD:** This section adds the color, impact, pizzazz, emotion, and visual interpretation of the music that the winds and percussion perform on the field. This is done with many different effects, including dance/movement, flags, rifles, sabers, props and other apparatus. Members of the color guard do not wear the traditional uniforms. Their outfits are designed new and made to fit the theme of the show each season. There is an additional fee for the color guard uniforms (please note this on the Payment form). It is not required for members of the color guard to be registered in a music course at Andover HS, unlike the other sections of the band. Although, most guard members are also music students.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Wind and Percussion players must be enrolled in at Andover High School music course terms 1-4 this coming school year. There are no tryouts for wind players, but it is understood that all students

must share the common goal of working hard as an individual to improve the group as a whole. All percussionists will be assigned a position in the percussion section by our percussion instructors.

## **POLICIES / EXPECTATIONS**

### **MSHSL RULES AND POLICIES**

Students are expected to follow all rules and regulations as set by the Minnesota State High School League. Rule violations will not be tolerated and may result in suspension or removal from the marching band at the director and school administration's discretion.

### **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

You are the vital link to the success of this program. By being a part of this program, you are committing to the entire schedule. You should approach marching band with the same attitude and commitment level you would any other high school varsity sport. Absences due to illness in addition to calling the main school attendance line (506-8400) must be also communicated with a written note or a phone call to the band office (Mr. Comeau 506-8548) from a parent or guardian. Most athletic conflicts can be worked around. Early and honest communication with the director is necessary for proper consideration of these conflicts.

The single greatest obstacle standing between us and the goal of excellence is attendance. You will be signing a statement declaring your understanding of the following policy:

- ✓ Students who are unable to attend the rehearsal, the day of, or days leading up to a performance may be unable to participate in that performance. This decision is completely at the discretion of the marching band staff and director. That member will be required to accompany the band to the competition/performance and assist the band in a non-performance role.
- ✓ **Do not** schedule doctor/dentist visits during rehearsal times. The local orthodontist's office has dubbed Wednesday afternoon "band day" as so many members schedule their appointments on the only day of the week we do not rehearse. Students must understand that they are the ones that will end up taking responsibility for their parent's actions if they were to accidentally schedule appointments during a rehearsal. In the event that appointment conflict with rehearsal is unavoidable, it is again the student's responsibility to communicate clearly and honestly with the band director *well in advance*.
- ✓ Students **will not** be excused from marching band rehearsals/performances for work.
- ✓ Everyone in the marching band attends every performance. Students not able to attend *every* performance are required to clear with Mr. Comeau before the start of the season. This unfortunately may affect the possibility of performing in the marching band.
- ✓ As stated above, **EVERY STUDENT IS A STARTER**. A missing student means a hole in the formations, a missing solo/harmony part, missed changes or revisions in the drill, music, tempo, alignment... For these reasons, our band is a group of extremely committed individuals. Members hold themselves to these guidelines because of the personal commitment they make to the ensemble and the commitment made to their fellow band members.

## PERFORMANCE EXPECTATIONS

Individual practice is a required part of being a performer in the marching band. Individual growth as a musician comes from the time spent in both rehearsal and the practice room. All members will be “tested” throughout the season to measure their individual progress. Members of the marching band take great pride in their achievement over the course of a season. Think of these tests as bench marks for your own personal growth over time. The philosophy of our marching band staff is to provide members every possible means to achieve personal musical and physical goals. Our staff is extremely dedicated and is more than willing to provide all members with extra help. Be courageous and ask for extra help when needed. In the event that an individual is not meeting or taking the steps necessary to exceed those goals, performance status will be addressed by the marching band staff and director on an individual basis.

## PEP BAND PERFORMANCES AT FOOTBALL GAMES

The Marching Band serves as the pep band during regular season home football games. It is our responsibility to provide entertainment throughout the game. We remain in our sections/rows to be ready to perform. Instrument safety and uniform cleanliness are very important in the bleachers. We are still in “performance mode” even though we are not on the field.

## BUS TRIPS/TRANSPORTATION

All band members are required to ride the provided buses to and from all performances. Radios/CD players with **EARPHONES ONLY** are allowed. All marching band members must assist in loading and unloading instruments/uniforms/equipment.

## FOOD, GUM, TRASH, ETC

We must keep our practice areas clean and ready for the next practice. Most areas are shared with other groups/activities. Gum is **NOT ALLOWED, EVER!** It is very unsafe to play your instrument and chew gum. Each section of the band will be assigned days to clean up after practice. **DO NOT** show up to a practice or performance with bags of fast food!!! You will not be ready to perform your best on time. Any students arriving late to rehearsal with Caribou Coffee in hand may be mocked and/or otherwise ridiculed by the director in coordination with other staff members.

This policy is a guideline. Under extenuating circumstances, the director may find exception to this policy at his or her discretion.

## **SECTION LEADERS & DRUM MAJORS**

Section Leaders are an integral component of a successful marching band. Section Leaders must be current members of the school band program. Students wishing to become a Section Leader must complete an application and participate in an interview. The Drum Majors direct/conduct the Marching Band. From the first rehearsal to the final note of the final performance, the job of Drum Major is never ending. Drum Majors must be current members of the school band program. Drum Majors are selected after a process which consists of a written application, interview, vocal

command and conducting audition. Applications for both section leaders and drum majors are available and are due with registration materials.

## **INSTRUMENTATION**

Marching Band is a great opportunity to learn a secondary instrument. We can achieve a certain level of excellence with our “natural” instrumentation; however there will always be balance problems in the sound of the band due to a shortage of performers on certain instruments. For woodwind and brass players, there is a serious expectation that members will perform on instruments determined by the musical staff and band director which will contribute to the enrichment of the ensemble as a whole. A band of 100 saxophones could not achieve the level of excellence that our ensemble strives toward. For members of the percussion section, instruments are strictly assigned to members by the percussion staff and the band director, again based on what is in the best interest of the ensemble as a whole. All who are excited and willing to make a switch (even for MB only) should indicate on the instrument line of the registration sheet.

## **SCHOOL OWNED EQUIPMENT**

Andover High School will provide the following instruments for use during the marching band season (District #11 rental fees apply): Tubas, Baritones, Mellophones, Valve Trombones, Percussion Equipment and Guard Equipment.

All school owned instruments/equipment will be issued to you by a band director. If you choose to use a school owned instrument for the marching band season, there is a school district fee of \$25. You will be financially responsible for the condition of these instruments. ANY repair costs resulting from carelessness, irresponsibility or mistreatment will be paid for by the student or students responsible. Repairs are costly and time consuming, but often must be completed in time for a performance. Please inform a director as soon as possible if repairs need to be made. Remember: it is your responsibility to take good care of our instruments.

Note: Percussion and color guard equipment fees collected for use of school equipment does not come close to covering the dollar amount spent in maintenance and replacement of said equipment under normal use conditions. Please note that fees are for *your use of school owned equipment*. This includes sticks, mallets, school purchased tape, rifles, sabers, etc.

## **UNIFORMS**

Uniforms will be issued prior to the performance season. ALL uniforms are stored at school and will be checked out for each performance. This makes the process of being ready for a performance much more efficient and lowers the possibility of forgetting any part of your uniform. Below is some general uniform information, more specific member information will be given before our first uniformed performance/rehearsal.

1. The uniform belongs to the school. You are allowed to use this uniform as part of your membership in this organization.
2. Always wear your uniform with pride and respect for the organization to which you belong. There are 3 stages of performance dress (and 3 stages only): out of dress (street clothes), half-dress, and full dress. These will be explained, in great detail, during rehearsal.
3. Each member will pay a \$26 fee for cleaning, tailoring, and upkeep of this uniform.
4. Members wear the black marching band show t-shirt under your uniform at all times.
5. You must provide solid black athletic socks without pattern or print on them.

## UNIFORM FITTINGS

All members will need to be fitted for a uniform. Uniform fitting times this year are scheduled immediately after rehearsal August 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. We will need parents to assist fitting all students. If you are willing and able to help with this important task, please contact the ABBO.

## SHOES

Each member of the winds and percussion sections (not Color Guard) wear black marching band shoes. We will do a group order for marching shoes at the end of registration. Remember to indicate your size (similar to athletic shoes) on the registration form. Members (somewhat ritualistically) clean and polish shoes before each performance. Members with questions on upkeep of marching shoes are directed to ask their section leaders.

## APPEARANCE AND GROOMING

Although it may seem unnecessary to some, to insure a clean and uniform appearance of the band the following grooming requirements are strictly adhered to by marching band members during the competitive season. The way we dress and take care of our appearance contributes much to the success of the band. Members of the Marching Huskies take pride in their appearance.

- ✓ All members must be clean-shaven. Yes, this includes your scruffy try at a goatee. You can continue that project after the season is over. No, this rule does not apply to the band director or staff members.
- ✓ All jewelry (including earrings - gentlemen too) must be removed prior to every performance. This includes the nose piercing you got last week. It will come out or you don't go on the field. No exceptions.
- ✓ When in uniform, hair is worn above the collar and behind the ears (boys and girls). Anyone not able to meet this requirement must either cut their hair or put it up in a way such that it does not fall down.
- ✓ Heavy makeup is NOT ALLOWED during a performance. It detracts from the performance and may also cause health issues such as overheating, dehydration or exhaustion. Color guard members have specific instructions on makeup for the show. Please see the guard instructor for further information.
- ✓ More information about "uniform etiquette" will be provided before our first performance of the season. The Andover Marching Huskies take great pride in performance. Our style is more than the way we march; it is the way we present ourselves as a whole. Class and respect for what we do as an organization is shown through the way we appear in public.

## **ACADEMIC PROGRESS**

High school students each handle the rigors of their coursework differently. Eventually, every student athlete, musician, or activity member will feel the weight of homework along with extracurricular commitments. Music students at Andover consistently make up more than half of the top 10 GPAs in the school. This year, two-thirds of the top 10 students in every grade were music students. This is no coincidence. Last season, the average GPA of the Marching Huskies was 3.27. Your academic progress is very important to the success of the entire marching band. You must make sure that your school assignments are up to date. Poor time management is not an excuse to miss marching band practice. Plan ahead and get it done.

## **HOMEWORK**

School is more important than ANY high school extra-curricular activity. This **does not** mean that band members may miss any part of rehearsal because of homework. Part of becoming a responsible adult means managing your commitments and time accordingly. You must make sure that academic assignments are completed in a timely fashion. It's also important to note that Marching band (or any other activity) is never an excuse for late assignments or incomplete projects. We all know that those "big" assignments are assigned long before the night before they are due... Start them early and finish them early!!!

## **PARENT HELP**

One of the biggest success stories we've created at Andover High School is the support of its members' parents and family members. If each parent contributes a small amount of time and talent to the band, it will assist in keeping costs reasonable for students, provide necessary logistical support, and give parents a chance to get to know each other. Parents help the band in many ways: cheering in the stands, fundraising, first-aid, photography, equipment moving, uniform specialists, etc.... Most parent volunteer coordination throughout the season is taken care of by our booster organization (ABBO).

In years past, friends of the marching band have donated their time and talents in many ways. Here are a few examples of how family, alumni, and friends have helped the marching band:

- ✓ Sewing flags and uniforms for our colorguard
- ✓ Donating food for heat week meals
- ✓ Chaperoning performance events
- ✓ Monetary contributions
- ✓ Company donations or matched donations

Sometimes we have specific requests for help from parents. In years past, specific parents have taken on roles that keep our program flourishing. Everything from taking pictures of performances to welding percussion equipment carts. This year we are looking for a parent who may be interested in doing some videographer work for the season. Anyone interested who may have experience in digital video recording and editing are encouraged to contact Mr. Comeau for more information.

## THE ANDOVER BAND BOOSTER ORGANIZATION

The Andover Band Booster Organization is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization committed to supporting the Andover Band program. ABBO supports our band program in many ways. During the marching band season and times leading to the marching band season (some would say all year), the group's main objective is supporting our marching band.

Many of the time and resource consuming aspects of running a competitive marching band remain in the background thanks to this organization. Without their help and generous support, our marching band simply could not function as it does today.

For information about the ABBO including meeting time and dates, volunteering, etc. please visit their website at [www.andoverbandboosters.org](http://www.andoverbandboosters.org)

## HEAT WEEK!!

Monday through Saturday, August 11 - 16, this year at Andover HS.

Our daily schedule is as follows:

### Monday - Saturday

9:00am - Noon	Marching/Drill rehearsal
Noon - 1:00	Lunch Break (bring a bag lunch)
1:00pm - 4:00pm	Full ensemble rehearsal
4:00pm - 5:00pm	Dinner Break
5:00pm - 8:00pm	Full ensemble rehearsal

While on paper this appears to be a grueling schedule, it is also the only large block of time we have to totally devote to our fall field show. This is the week that marching band members look forward to all year long. Not only must we learn and perfect the entire competitive show, we must also learn and develop those habits which will lead us to success. There will be plenty of water breaks and activities to help break up the day. It is imperative that all members attend the entirety of these rehearsals.

## BAND LETTER POINTS

By attending all rehearsals and performances, a member of the Marching Huskies may earn points towards a Band Letter Award. Twenty points are needed to earn a Band Letter Award. Being a member of the Marching Huskies can help you achieve this goal. Points are awarded by the director and will be based on the students participation, attendance, and contribution to the success of the marching band. Here is a description of the available letter points for marching band related activities:

All Marching Band Members	1-7 points (4th season double points)
Drum Majors.....	2 points
MB Section Leaders.....	1 point
Equipment managers.....	1 point

## EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

Being involved in marching band has a few equipment requirements. There are some general items that you will need to bring to every practice to ensure success of our show. Below is a list of general items that you will want to bring to every rehearsal.\*\*

1. Positive attitude!
2. Your instrument: **in working order!** Reeds, mallets/sticks, valve oil, etc. are included in this!
3. A 1” three ring binder with your music and drill charts. All handouts, including music, will be three-hole punched and kept in this notebook. Members use page protectors to keep the quickly soiled pages intact.
4. Your DOT BOOK. (new members – you’ll find out).
5. A BIG water bottle. Most members use a one-gallon size jug or larger during summer months.
6. Sunscreen – especially for heat week, but will be necessary for all summer rehearsals.
7. Athletic Shoes (Required for practice – No Sandals - no exceptions)
8. Wear appropriate clothing such as shorts, sweats, t-shirt, etc... Denim of any kind is not permitted (it’s just too hot for what we do). All shirts must have shoulders covered. Tank, halter, tube tops are not permitted.
9. A pen or pencil that can hang on a string around your neck.
10. A hat or something to cover you head in the heat (outside).
11. Marching band shoes (required for dress rehearsals and performances).
12. Lyre & Flip Folder (winds only) for pep-band performances

\*\* There may be additional items as we approach the start of the season.

## FUND RAISING OPPORTUNITIES

There are many opportunities for students to participate in fundraising projects this season. There are two types of fundraisers: Individual and Group.

### *Individual Fundraisers*

In the case of individual fund-raisers, money raised is deposited in an individual student activity account. From this account, students can use raised funds to cover band fees, any music department incurred fees, or other individual music related expenses. Common examples of an individual fundraiser are candy bar, frozen food, or CD sales.

### *Group Fundraisers*

Group fundraisers go toward covering program costs. To keep a new, growing, competitive field marching band strong, much support is needed from all members of the Andover Band Family.

Rookie members, veteran members, alumni members, and all of their families give their time and resources to making our program successful. There is expectation from within the ensemble that all members will make group fundraising a priority for the success and future of the band.

AHEF – The Anoka Hennepin Educational Foundation has been a great supporter of extracurricular activities within the district. They offer easy ways to raise funds and support local programs. Money back from AHEF vouchers has gone into many students' band activity accounts, paying for everything from reeds to a new instrument! For more information AHEF visit the Anoka-Hennepin website @ [www.anoka.k12.mn.us](http://www.anoka.k12.mn.us).

### **STUDENT ACTIVITY ACCOUNTS**

Each band student has an individual Andover HS Band activity account. Funds may be accumulated through various fund raising events or direct deposit by student/parent. This can be used to easily pay for band related expenses such as fees, trips, etc. Money can be accumulated and expended over the course of a student's high school career. Money deposited cannot be refunded. However, upon high school graduation may be transferred to a sibling or family member participating in the Andover HS Band Program.

### **FINANCIAL NEED/FEE WAIVER**

If your son/daughter is currently receiving assistance from the school district free/reduced lunch program, you may qualify for reduced activity fee options. This program pertains only to the district activity fee portion. Fees included in Payment #1, unfortunately, are not included in this program...

Please **do not** let a financial issue be the reason to eliminate your child from the experience of the Andover Marching Huskies. If your family is facing some decisions, please contact Mr. Comeau or Mr. Bakkum in the band office or Mr. Eric Lehtola, Andover HS activities director, to discuss possibilities of alternative payment options.

### **ANDOVERBANDS.ORG**

The official Andover High School band website. Your year-round resource for all things Andover Band. During the marching band season, check the website often for show and report time updates, new performances, and other band related activities!

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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