

Mandeville High School Skipper Band Handbook 2025-2026



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Table of Contents

Table of Contents	2
Introduction & Welcome	3
Program Objectives & Expectations	4
Curricular Offerings	5
Code of Conduct	6
Attendance Policy	7
Travel Policy	8
School Equipment & Facilities Use	8
Dress Code and Uniform Policy	10
Grading Policy	12
Fees and Fundraising	13
Band Camp Information	15
Classroom Procedures	16
Typical Weekly After School Rehearsal Schedule	16
Seal of Fine Arts Requirements	17
Communication	17
Important Dates	19

Introduction & Welcome

Mr. Dibenedetto and Mr. Johnson would like to welcome you to the Mandeville High School Band Program. The mission of the Mandeville High School Band Program is to create effective learning experiences for our students through musical and visual performances and activities. The MHS band also aims to assist students in developing social skills for success in group activities, utilizing skills such as: confidence, cooperation, responsibility, teamwork, and leadership in order to create well rounded students for post high school success.

Participation in a Band Program is one of very few High School activities that is able to offer students such a wide variety of values and skills that can be transferred for post graduate success. Students in an active band program such as ours can expect:

- Performance opportunities in exciting venues
- Individual musical development
- Musical enjoyment and appreciation of all kinds of music
- Teamwork
- Commitment
- Responsibility
- Leadership
- Time management
- Goal setting
- Band family atmosphere
- Sense of belonging to an organization
- Confidence and Self-esteem
- Opportunity to experience success and failure
- Development of people skills
- Stress management
- Self-discipline
- Values of intense effort and hard work
- Excellence
- Motivation
- Physical Fitness

In the following pages, you will find the policies, procedures, and information that students and parents will need in order to achieve their full potential within our organization. Please read all information thoroughly and completely to be fully aware of how the program functions and how you can succeed within it.

Program Objectives & Expectations

The Mandeville High School Band Program aims to provide students with meaningful musical experiences during their time in the MHS Band Program. Through these experiences, and the process of preparation for them, our goals for each member are as follows:

- Each member will develop performance skills of the various wind and percussion instruments.
- Each member will strive for high standards of excellence.
- Each member will develop a sense of responsibility for attendance, preparation, and each other.
- Each member will enhance their personal awareness in rehearsal and performance to increase the overall individual and performance quality.
- Each member will be provided a means for self expression and a healthy social experience.

In order to most effectively achieve the goals of the program, all members of the program are expected to:

Show Respect

Respect yourself. Respect others. Respect the band facilities, traditions, instruments, equipment, and uniforms. This extends to all students and staff of the program, campus, and offsite facilities we might be visiting. No student is above another, regardless of performance ability, leadership position, or ensemble membership. A good rule of thumb to follow is: Would I say or do this in front of my Principal, Band Director, Grandparents, etc?

Be Prepared

Members of the Band Program are responsible for doing their best, working on their individual skills and practicing. All equipment must be brought to rehearsals and class as requested. Preparation includes having your instrument ready for effective performance. (Instrument clean and polished, valves and keys oiled, reeds broken in, sticks taped, music measures numbered, etc.)

Be On Time

Students should arrive at the designated location *at least* 15 minutes before the scheduled rehearsal or performance in order to be ready to start on time. If you count on someone else for a ride to events, tell them the time that you should be at the event, not the time the practice starts. By following this process, you will be physically and mentally prepared to begin the rehearsal at the proper time, instead of running in at the last minute or late. This will also allow a cushion of safety if there is extra traffic or if you are running a few minutes behind. (Always stay mindful of the inconsistency of traffic on the Madisonville bridge and Highway 190)

Curricular Offerings

Marching Band

All students enrolled in the band program are required to participate in Marching Band. By approval from the Directors, students that participate in Fall Sports or have specific medical or other needs may be exempt from this requirement. Through marching band, all students will be able to earn all required Physical Education credits for graduation, without the need to take a P.E. class. All members will be required to be in attendance for all Marching Band activities including: practices, performances, parades, and special events. Marching Band begins over the summer and ends at the culmination of the MHS Varsity Football Season, with the addition of select Mardi Gras Parades in the Spring. Marching Band practices are Mondays and Thursday during the fall semester from 6-8:30pm.

Symphonic Winds

The Symphonic Winds, or “Wind Ens” on the scheduling catalog, is the premiere performing concert ensemble of the Mandeville High School Band Program. This ensemble primarily consists of Juniors and Seniors. Under the leadership of Mr. Dibenedetto, this ensemble has received consistent superior ratings at LMEA Large Group Assessment. Membership in this ensemble is by audition only due to the grade IV and V difficulty level music. During the spring semester, the Symphonic Winds will rehearse on select Mondays from 2:40-4:00 pm.

Concert Winds

The Concert Winds, or “Adv Band” on the scheduling catalog, is the second performing concert ensemble of the Mandeville High School Band Program. This ensemble primarily consists of Sophomores and Juniors. This ensemble is under the direction of Mr. Johnson and has consistently received superior ratings at LMEA Large Group Assessment. Membership in this ensemble is by audition only due to the grade III and IV difficulty level music. During the Spring Semester, the Concert Winds rehearses on select Thursdays from 2:40-4:00 pm.

Concert Band

The Concert Band, or “Int Band” on the scheduling catalog, is the third and newest performing concert ensemble of the Mandeville High School Band Program. This ensemble primarily consists of Freshmen and Sophomores. This ensemble is under the direction of Mr. Johnson. This ensemble has no audition requirement but students should be able to perform music at the grade II and III difficulty levels. During the Spring Semester, the Concert Band rehearses on select Tuesdays from 2:40-4:00 pm.

Man Overboard Big Band

The Man Overboard Big Band, or “Jazz Ens” on the scheduling catalog, is the Mandeville Band Program’s premiere jazz ensemble. The jazz band performs for community events, campus activities, and travels to perform at local Jazz Festivals such as Bill Evans Jazz Festival or the Loyola Jazz Festival. This ensemble is under the direction of Mr. Lyons. This

ensemble is by audition only due to the difficulty and varied style of music performed. During the Fall and Spring Semesters, the jazz band rehearses on select Wednesdays after school.

Mainsails Colorguard Team

The Mandeville High School Mainsails Colorguard Team is a competitive team that brings spirit and support to our school through the art of dance and spinning. This team is the visual aspect to the marching band program in the fall and participates in the separate winterguard activity in the spring, which occurs indoors and is separate from the musicians of the band program. The MHS Mainsails team has a successful history competing in the LMCGPC, MPAA, and WGI competition circuits, being named LMCGPC and WGI circuit champions, regional champions, and regional finalists, and World Semi-Finalists, including the highest placement in school history of 24th place at WGI World Championships. This team is by audition only. For more information, see the MHS Mainsails Colorguard Handbook.

Percussion

The Mandeville High School Percussion is an elite performance group that serves as the heart of the band program. The entire MHS percussion membership performs on drumline instruments for spirit activity such as football games, pep rallies, and parades. For the marching band competition program, an audition will take place to determine part placement between the Front Ensemble and Competition Drumline. In the Spring Semester, percussion students have the opportunity to participate in the Indoor Percussion ensemble. The MHS Indoor Percussion competes in the MPAA & WGI circuit.

Credit Information

By participating in the Mandeville High Band Program, students will receive all required Fine Arts and Physical Education credits required for graduation. For more information on credits and how they are represented through scheduling, please speak with Mr. Johnson.

Code of Conduct

Any member of the band program who discredits the organization, school, or community through his or her conduct shall be subject to loss of privileges or dismissal from the program. Loss of privileges within the program can include loss of eligibility to attend off campus and/or after school events such as band trips, football games, competitions, concerts, banquets, etc. All penalties shall be decided by the Band Directors in consultation with the Mandeville High School Administration.

Students should expect to follow all school policies, as stated in the student handbook, along with all local, state, and federal laws. Failure to follow these rules and laws will result in the appropriate punishments as determined by the school policy, along with the above stated loss of privileges or dismissal from the program.

- The use of drugs, alcohol, vapes, or any illegal substances is strictly prohibited both in and out of school. Violations will result in disciplinary action, including possible dismissal from the program, at the discretion of the directors.
- Program members and parents/guardians must conduct themselves appropriately and respectfully, especially while wearing team or band apparel.
- No eating or drinking in traditional uniform (except clear liquids), unless the jacket and uniform white/blue shirt are removed or the student is wearing an appropriate cover-up.

Attendance Policy

In order to be fully prepared for all performances, all members of the band program are expected to be **present and on time** for all band events, including rehearsals and performances.

Students and Parents can find the calendar of events on the official band website and on the Booster Hub app. The website url is as follows:

www.mandevillehighband.org

Attendance for all out-of-school events, including practices, performances, and events will be checked using the **Geo, Powered by Arc** application. If a student does not have access to a cell-phone, then they must check in with either Mr. DiBenedetto or Mr. Johnson prior to the event call time. For more information on Geo, see “Communication” below.

Participation in the band program is a co-curricular activity, meaning that attendance is required for both in school and out of school activities. Excessive or continued tardiness or lack of attendance, whether excused or unexcused, may result in the placement of alternate status in the marching band program, inability to perform, and/or grade point deductions.

As students are encouraged to be involved in multiple school programs, conflicts may arise in student schedules. For an absence to be considered excused, students will communicate PRIOR to the absence (See “Communication” section below), and the absence must fall in one of the following categories: Illness with a doctor’s/parent’s note, Death in the family, religious holiday, or communicated school event conflict. If the Parent/Guardian and/or student fails to communicate the absence, the absence will be assumed unexcused. In the case of an excused absence, students may be assigned an alternative assignment, equal to the work that would have been done during the event, in order to receive credit for the missed event.

Examples of absences that are NOT excused include:

- lack of transportation to an event (Communication is key, please talk to us and we can arrange a classmate to assist you),
- Making up assignments.

- Student jobs (Employers love to hire people who are well rounded, communication with your employers is your responsibility, and legally they must abide by your school schedule).

The Mandeville High School Band Program is proud to include students that are well rounded and that participate in multiple campus programs. Remember, the policies stated in this handbook apply to all students in the program, and members of multiple programs should maintain the same attendance and performance quality standards as students that may only participate in a singular program. By participating in multiple programs, the student should still expect to be in attendance at rehearsals and performances. In the case of direct conflicts, the student should be in communication with the Band Directors to maintain their performance positions within the program.

All interpretation of the above policy shall be at the discretion of the Band Directors. Remember, Communication is KEY when you are dealing with conflicts!

Travel Policy

The Mandeville Band Program has the wonderful opportunity to travel out of state for performance on a bi-yearly basis. The location of the trip is announced the year prior, along with all pertinent information regarding dates, cost, and scope of performance. Attendance on these trips is OPTIONAL. In the case of a full band trip, every opportunity will be made for students to be able to fundraise for their cost of the trip, so that each and every student is provided equal opportunity for elite performance.

In order to attend a trip, the member must be up to date with all band fees, and the entire trip must be paid on time. If a student is late on payment for a trip, a student may be removed from attendance on said trip.

Attendance on these trips is based upon the positive standing within the band program. If a member of the program is not in compliance with the policies laid out in this handbook, they will not be eligible to attend the trip. Refund of money paid will be based upon the travel company policy.

In order to effectively prepare for out-of-state performances, all students attending the trip must be in a band class during the fall and spring semesters of the school year in which the trip takes place. These trips are representative of the Mandeville Band Program, and therefore all participants must be active members of the program.

School Equipment & Facilities Use

The Mandeville High School Band Program is proud to offer members of the program the use of all instruments and equipment necessary for effective performance, along with spaces for rehearsal. All members of the program are expected to follow all below stated rules in order to protect the quality of said instruments, equipment, and facilities. Remember, all instruments,

equipment, and facilities are school property, members are simply allowed use of them. Similar to the use of school or public library books. Therefore, the privilege of using these items and spaces can be revoked in the case of failure to follow rules and expectations laid out below.

Instruments and Equipment:

- Students may only check out an instrument only for use with a band associated school performing ensemble. Checkout of instruments for personal practice, non-primary instrument lessons, and non-school performing ensembles is unfortunately not allowed due to inventory constraints and budgetary sources for the upkeep/purchasing of school instruments.
- No student may use an instrument that is not their personal property or actively checked out to the student. This is in order to prevent unnecessary damage due to inexperience or incompetence. Instruments are fragile, repairs are costly. It is the duty of both the student with the assigned instrument and other band members to follow this guideline.
- While an instrument is checked out, the student is responsible for all regular maintenance and upkeep. Regular maintenance is the key to preventing an item from breaking. Students are expected to return instruments and equipment in the same condition it was assigned to the student. If an instrument is broken or lost while in the assignment of the student, the assigned student is responsible for the return, repair, replacement, or compensation of the item. If an instrument is lost, the value of the instrument will be applied to the member's fee account.
- All items present with the instrument upon checkout are included with the assigned instrument and are expected to be returned with the instrument at the end of each school year. This includes but is not limited to: mouthpieces, neck straps, lyre's, leadpipes, shoulder pads, etc. The assigned student is responsible for the return, repair, replacement, and/or compensation of the item.
- The band does not provide instrument care items such as valve oil, key oil, or instrument scrubbers for students. It is the responsibility of the student to purchase these items and keep them for use with personal and school owned instruments.

Facilities:

- Members should not be in any spaces without an approved adult or faculty member, and may only enter spaces when explicitly approved to do so. This includes the 600 hallway during before/after school hours.
- As one of the only carpeted spaces on campus, and with the sensitive instruments and equipment, **no** students may eat, chew, and/or drink any items other than water within any band program spaces. This includes chewing gum.
- No personal items, other than instruments or music, should be left in any band spaces. Any items left in inappropriate locations and/or do not follow the above guideline are not the responsibility of the Band staff, and will be disposed of.
- Students may only leave instruments and equipment in approved spaces, such as the low brass closet shelves (for specified sections) or assigned lockers.

Lockers:

- Students who are assigned a locker are permitted to keep only their instrument, music, and instrument specific items (i.e. mutes) in these lockers.
- Students may bring a number combination lock to use on their locker, but must provide the password combination to the Band Directors in the case of opening said locker. If the locker combination is not provided, the lock will be cut off.
- Any non-approved items kept in the locker are not the responsibility of the Band Directors or school faculty in the case of loss, damage, or theft.
- All lockers are subject to search, at any time, at the discretion of the Band Directors and school administration. The assigned student will face consequences for any items found to be against Band policy, School policy, or laws.

Failure to follow these rules will result in the appropriate punishments including detentions, loss of privileges, or dismissal from the program.

Dress Code and Uniform Policy

The Mandeville Band Program has many varied performances throughout a single school year. In order to represent the program, school, and community in a positive manner, the Mandeville Band Program has a uniform requirement for all performances and select rehearsals throughout the year. In addition to student owned items, the Band Program also provides select, school owned uniform parts for use by students. All policies stated below will be followed in order to maintain a safe and respectful atmosphere during rehearsals, along with care for school owned uniforms.

Listed below are all uniform items that students are responsible for purchasing/providing for use during the school year:

- Black athletic shorts. (Solid black, no logos or designs)
- Athletic Shoes (Tennis shoes)
- Long black socks (Solid black, no logos or designs, should completely cover ankles)
- Uniform Black Sleeveless Shirt (Available for purchase through the MHS band merch store, linked below under Student and Parent Resources)
- Uniform Blue Band Polo (Available for purchase through the MHS band merch store, linked below under Student and Parent Resources)
- Black Marching shoes (Fitted and ordered for freshmen at the beginning of the school year, payment through MyPaymentsPlus)
- Black slacks (NOT Denim material or cargo pants, must have belt loops)
- Black Belt (Simple buckle)
- Concert Black Attire (Outlined below)
 - SOLID BLACK.
 - No logos or designs.
 - Choice of black slacks and black long sleeve button down, with black dress shoes (you can wear your black marching shoes), black belt and long black socks.

- OR you can wear a black ANKLE LENGTH dress or skirt with blouse, along with black heels or flats.

Uniform Combinations and Scenarios:

- **Pep Uniform:**
 - Worn for some home football games, pep rallies, away football games, etc.
 - Blue Band Polo
 - Black Marching Shoes
 - Black Slacks
 - Long Black Socks
 - Black Belt
- **Warm Weather Uniform:**
 - Worn for performances in extreme heat and stadium practices.
 - Blue Band Polo OR Mandeville Blue Shirt
 - Black Athletic Shorts
 - Athletic Shoes
- **Formal Marching Uniform:**
 - Worn for some (cooler) home football games, parades, competitions, etc.
 - Black Athletic Shorts
 - Black Uniform Sleeveless Shirt
 - Marching Shoes
 - Long Black Socks
- **Concert Black**
 - Worn for concerts and concert/jazz ensemble performances.
 - SOLID BLACK.
 - No logos or designs.
 - Choice of black slacks and black long sleeve button down, with black dress shoes (you can wear your black marching shoes), black belt and long black socks.
 - OR you can wear a black ANKLE LENGTH dress or skirt with blouse, along with black heels or flats.

Dress Code:

- All students are expected to follow school dress code requirements **at all times**. Shirts and Shoes must be worn at all times, regardless of weather conditions like heat or rain.
- Hoods, Hats, and sunglasses should not be worn inside according to school policy.
- Students should wear only athletic type, closed toed shoes when on the marching band field or stadium. This is in order to protect students from injury when outside, whether from flora, fauna, or just active movement.

Uniform Policy:

- School owned uniforms will be assigned to students and are subject to the policies written above under school equipment and facilities use. Students are expected to return uniform parts in the same condition they were assigned to the student. If a uniform part

or parts are broken or lost while in the assignment of the student, the assigned student is responsible for the return, repair, replacement, or compensation of the item.

- When wearing the full marching band uniform, students must wear athletic type shorts and the uniform sleeveless shirt underneath. This is in order to maintain hygiene of the uniform, as they are used for many years, and by many students (with ample cleaning between).
- When in any uniform, no obvious jewelry may be worn. Students should wear only stud earrings, and no watches/bracelets may be worn. This includes smartwatches, which are not allowed on campus according to school policy.
- Students are responsible for keeping their uniforms hung up properly in the uniform bag **at all times** during transport to and from performances where we wear them. The **only** acceptable places for the traditional uniform is in the assigned bag, or on your body.
- The School owned traditional uniforms shall **never** touch the ground in any way. This means not sitting on the ground, dragging the hem of the pants along the ground, or leaving the uniform on the ground when putting it on or taking off.
- As with the facilities use policy, **no** student may eat, chew, and/or drink any items other than water while wearing the traditional uniform. This includes chewing gum. Any stains due to failure to follow this policy will count as damage to the uniform, and the assigned student will be responsible for repair, replacement, or compensation of the item.
- Any Damage, whether accidental or due to band activity should be reported **immediately** so that it may be fixed or marked on the record.

Grading Policy

Membership in the band program is a co-curricular activity, meaning that aspects of both rehearsal and performance happen during and outside of the school day. The overall grade in band class is based off of the attendance and participation in both of these times as well. See attendance policy for information on what is considered excused or unexcused. In the case of excused absences, the grade will only be updated upon the successful completion and return of the alternative assignment.

Mandeville High School operates on a 10 point grading scale. Below is a representation of what percentage grade corresponds to a letter grade.

90-100 A

80-89 B

70-79 C

60-69 D

0-59 F

The Band program grading system is based on 4 categories. Listed below are the percentage weights and breakdown of what is included in that category.

Performances (28%)

Performances include all on and off campus events. Students are expected to show up on time, in the correct uniform, have all required performance items, and fully prepared for the performance. Failure to meet the above expectations will result in grade deductions and/or inability to perform. Band is a performance based activity, all of our work in rehearsal in and out of school hours are to prepare for these performances.

Playing Tests (28%)

Playing tests will happen weekly during Marching band season, and will happen as assigned during the spring semester. For playing tests, students will have the option of performing the material for either Band Director on the assigned day. Students may be asked to memorize the assigned material for the playing test, mostly in the case of Competition Marching Show music and School Songs for performance at football games. Successful memorization of the material will be taken into account for these assigned tests, along with performance quality. The rubric used for grading playing tests can be found at the end of the Grading policy section, the test grade is the average of the 4 categories of the rubric (tone, intonation, technique, and musicianship).

Participation (28%)

This category includes the grades for all activities during practices in and out of school. In this category will be all attendance for after school practices and in class assignments. Failure to be prepared for class and rehearsals, like not having an instrument or music, will result in grade point deductions or total loss of points for that rehearsal.

Final Exam (15%)

The final exam will include either a skills based or knowledge based exam. The assigned material will be selected from information or playing tests from throughout the semester. Exemption from the final exam is based on school policy.

Fees and Fundraising

A program as active as ours requires funding to function. For a regular school year, the Mandeville High School Band Program has expenses for many items like:

- Transportation
- Music purchasing
- Repair/Replacing broken equipment/instruments
- New Equipment/instruments
- Teaching Staff
- Competition Fees
- Mats for indoor season
- Props

- Uniforms
- And much more.

Between Band Fundraisers and our Band Booster club, we are able to cover a large part of the cost of participation for students. However, there are costs for students to be able to participate. Because we have to budget for an entire year of activity, members must pay all program fees on time. If funds are not received on time, there will not be a budget for the activities that the program enjoys participating in. If a member is not up to date on fees, at the Directors' discretion, the student may be ineligible to perform or participate in practice. Listed below is the breakdown of all fees for the 2025-2026 season, including what it pays for and when it is due by.

- Band fee:
 - \$300
 - All band students.
 - Pays for transportation, new instruments, new equipment, competition fees, etc. A breakdown of what student band fees pay for can always be requested from the Director of Bands.
 - Due by the end of October.
- Instrument rental Fee
 - \$50
 - For all students who utilize school owned instruments, including all percussionists.
 - Pays for the repair and upkeep of school owned instruments. Including drum heads, melodic percussion stringing, woodwind pad replacement, woodwind key regulation, brass ultrasonic cleaning, dent repair, etc.
 - Due by the Band Banquet in Early May.
- Jazz band
 - \$150
 - For all members of the Jazz Ensemble
 - Pays for transportation, festival entry fees, jazz music, and jazz ensemble specific equipment.
 - Due by the Band Banquet in Early May.
- Indoor percussion
 - \$300
 - For performing members of the Indoor Percussion competitive group in the spring.
 - Pays for Music, Drill, Mat, Extra Staff, Competition fees, and transportation.
 - Due by the Band Banquet in Early May.
- Indoor Percussion Uniform

- Up to \$100, Varies yearly.
- For performing members of the Indoor Percussion competitive group in the spring.
- Pays for the student uniform/costume for performance.
- Due by the Band Banquet in Early May.

All other funds for yearly cost we are able to fundraise through various events and assistance throughout the school year. It is vital that we have student participation in the fundraising events, so that the individual student cost remains low by utilizing community support. This program performs at an advanced level for large audiences across all of Louisiana and South Mississippi, and the wide range of performing ensembles offered have various specific costs that can add up quickly.

The Band Booster Club assists the band program by providing fundraising, equipment, staff, students meals, etc. See “Band Boosters” for more information.

Band Camp Information

Band Camp is the most important time of the year for the band program. This time allows us to be fully prepared for an entire school year of activities and performances. Band Camp is required for all students in the program, as during this time we have the assistance of extra band staff members that provide dedicated instruction for all instrument types. During band Camp is also when competition show spots are selected, along with learning the music and marching drill for the first third of the show. Band Camp takes place for 2 weeks (Monday-Friday, no weekends) in late July and sometimes early August, depending on when the first day of school happens. You can always find the band camp dates on our band website, find out more information under student and parent resources.

While on campus for band camp, students should treat all spaces with respect, and maintain them in a way so that we leave the space better than we found it. During all mealtimes, students may leave campus. However, if a student is riding in the vehicle of another student, both the passenger’s and driver’s parents/guardians must be informed. If a student is remaining on campus, they may eat their meals in a staff designated location, and will be under supervision of an adult. Students should not be in any campus location without the supervision of an adult. This includes sectional rooms during mealtimes, and unused spaces around campus.

“Typical” Band Camp Schedule:

8:00am-10:45am: Morning Marching Rehearsal (Outdoors)

11:00am-11:45am: Indoor Music Rehearsal in Sectionals

11:45am-1:00pm: Lunch

1:00pm-3:00pm: Indoor Music Rehearsal in Sectionals

3:00pm-4:00pm: Full Ensemble Music Rehearsal

4:00pm-5:30pm: Dinner

5:30pm-8:00pm Evening Marching Rehearsal (Outdoors)

Protecting Yourself from Heat:

Due to the climate of South Louisiana, this time of year can be very warm, and student safety is our number one priority. We follow all district policy in regards to weather, meaning that students are provided ample water breaks. And in the case of extreme heat or other weather, it is the responsibility of the Band Directors to maintain a safe environment for students. The band directors will communicate as necessary for all updates during band camp regarding weather. We also have parent volunteer help to provide water, snacks, and cooling towels when outside, so that no student is without the proper materials to succeed. Students should still prepare for heat by wearing appropriate attire, drinking water (NOT energy drinks or soda) the evening and morning before they are going to be outside, and eating a proper healthy breakfast. Our goal is that every student leaves band camp feeling healthy, more confident in their personal performance, and accomplished.

Classroom Procedures

Typical Classroom Routine:

- At the tardy bell: Students should be in the Band or Jazz room, being late will result in a tardy through the school. As students unpack their materials, bags and cases should remain in the jazz room or low brass closet to prevent tripping hazards in the case of an emergency exit.
- 2 Minutes after the bell: Students should have their instrument unpacked and be seated in their assigned seat, with all materials required for rehearsal. (Instrument, pencil, music, and water bottle) The student should be actively warming up on their instrument and reviewing the music for upcoming performances.
- When the Director begins rehearsal: The Director will have announcements and will review the schedule of upcoming events. Once rehearsal begins, students will be allowed time to work in pairs or small groups, in addition to listening and responding to materials in class.
- 5 minutes before the end of class: The Director will have a few last minute reminders, and then students may pack up their instruments and materials. Students may not leave the classroom until the bell rings.

Typical Weekly After School Rehearsal Schedule

During Marching Season

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Marching Band Practice	Jazz Rehearsal 2:45-4:00pm	Guard and Percussion Rehearsals	Full Marching Band Practice	Football Games	Marching Band Competitions

6-8:30pm.		(As needed)	6-8:30pm.		
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See Band Calendar for a more detailed schedule.

During the Spring Semester

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Symphonic Winds Rehearsal 2:45-4:00pm	Concert Band & Jazz Rehearsal 2:45-4:00pm		Concert Winds Rehearsal 2:45-4:00		

See Band Calendar for a more detailed schedule.

Seal of Fine Arts Requirements

For the 2026-2027 school year, the Louisiana Seal of Fine Arts diploma endorsement was created for students that have shown great achievement in an area of Fine Arts during their High School careers. The requirements for this seal of fine arts are as follows:

- 4 Years of consecutive fine arts curriculum.
- 3.0 GPA in the fine arts area of study
- A capstone project at the completion of the 4 credits of Fine Arts.

Due to the recent addition of this diploma endorsement, more capstone information will be shared in Spring 2027 for any seniors who meet the requirements.

Communication

Throughout the school year, there are multiple ways in which we communicate with our students, parents, and community. For contact with the band directors, the fastest and most guaranteed way of getting a response is by email. Listed below are emails for both directors:

Rossi DiBenedetto, Director of Bands: rossi.dibenedetto@stpsb.org
Peyton Johnson, Assistant Director of Bands: peyton.johnson@stpsb.org

Due to professional liability, safety, and St. Tammany Parish Schools policy, the band directors will not respond to communication through any other means than email. Facebook Messenger, contact through personal cell numbers, or word of mouth are not acceptable and will result in a report to administration and lack of response.

Booster Hub

CutTime is our program management software, and this is where our Band Calendar, Parent Announcements, Parent volunteers, and student inventory are handled. For information regarding your students assigned locker, instrument(s), uniform, equipment, flip folder, etc.

Booster Hub is the place to check. For any parents that would like to register to receive announcements, follow the below instructions:

1. Go the band website, select "Parent Registration" under the "Member Resources" tab and fill out all required information.
2. A Band Director will approve you for entry, then you will receive an email from Booster Hub (check your spam/junk folder), and complete the account setup process
3. Log into the Booster Hub application using the username and password you just created.

Skipper Band Boosters Facebook & Instagram Account

This social media account is used to share news and announcements from throughout the band and booster programs. Student information will never be shared through this public format.

Geo and UDBapp

Geo and UDBapp are powerful tools used for managing student and director time more efficiently. Geo is used for tracking attendance for out of school activities. Geo also acts as an effective safety tool for doing quick roll calls when travelling to or from off campus events. UDBapp is another powerful tool used by marching bands for more effectively learning drill (the formations/movements the band does on the field). This app makes our marching band practices more efficient, allowing the students to perform at a higher level and reduce their overall time commitments. Both of these apps are available on all major application stores.

Band Boosters

From the desk of the Skipper Band Boosters President, Celeste Muller:

Our mission is simple: to provide our students with the resources, equipment, and support they need to thrive. However, we cannot do this alone. The success of our programs depends entirely on the dedication, time, and energy of our parent community. Whether you can give one hour a month or lead a major committee, your involvement makes a direct, lasting impact on our kids.

How You Can Get Involved:

- Join the Club: Attend our monthly meetings to stay informed , pay booster dues to fund the student's needs, and share your ideas.
 - Volunteer Your Time: Help with event setup, concessions, ticketing, or team meals.
 - Share Your Skills: We always need parents with experience in photography, fundraising, prop building, or marketing.
 - Become a Sponsor: Connect us with local businesses or contribute via family financial donations or in-kind donations of meals, etc. We are a 501c3 tax deductible organization.
- No contribution is too small, and every helping hand shifts the weight for everyone. Thank you in advance for your time, your passion, and your commitment to making this our best year yet!

Important Dates

Football Games: 9/4 - Away vs. Salmen 9/11 - Home vs. Bonnabel 9/18 - Home vs. G.W. Carver 9/25 - Home vs. Hammond 10/1 - Away vs. Slidell 10/9 - Home vs. Covington 10/16 - Away vs. Ponchatoula 10/23 - Home vs. St. Paul's 10/30 - Away vs. Northshore 11/6 - Away vs. Fontainebleau 11/14 - LHSAA Playoffs Round 1 (TBD)	Marching Band Competitions: 9/26 - Brandon, MS Competition 10/17 - Lakeshore Competition 10/24 - Dutchtown Competition 11/7 - South Lafourche Competition 11/9-11/11 - LMEA State Marching Championships (Specific Date TBA)
Concerts: 10/28 - Jazz Ensemble and Symphonic Winds Fall Concert 12/10 - Winter Concert TBD - Jazz and Percussion Ensembles Concert TBD - Spring Concert	Parades and Other Events: 10/7 - Homecoming Parade 10/10 - Homecoming Dance 1/29 - Eve Parade 1/30 - Olympia Parade 3/24-3/25 - Assessment Performance