

Middletown Indoor Percussion Student and Parent Handbook



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Philosophy:

The goal of the Middletown High School Percussion Ensemble is to provide students with a continued performance experience through the exposure to the indoor drumline activity. This endeavor will strive to be both educational and enjoyable for the members of the indoor drumline and the audience. The students will be introduced/continue to strengthen basic skills in the drumline activity as well as provide a basic movement education, experience in a performance setting and strengthen team building skills. The ensemble also encourages and produces a team leadership program that empowers students to lead an organization of their peers through positive support and guidance. Ultimately, through these experiences the students will have an added exposure to other cultural and artistic mediums that surround them in their community and activity.

Ensemble Description:

The MHS Percussion Ensemble will be open to all Middletown High School students who are interested and open to learning the art of Percussion. **NO EXPERIENCE IS NECESSARY IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE** however, an open mind, positive attitude and willingness to work hard are all factors one must have in order to be successful not only as a member, but for the group. Elements that comprise an indoor drumline include:

- Basic elements of percussion techniques
- Visual / movement basics

Costs:

Students involved in any indoor activity (guard, jazz, or drumline) will pay a **\$50 participation fee**. This fee goes to helping offset the various costs incurred by all of the activities (fees, transportation, etc.) over the course of the season.

All Middletown High School Percussion Ensemble members will pay a **\$75 uniform/equipment** fee which will go towards production costs of the show which could include (but not limited to) uniforms, paint for the floor, materials for prop construction, drum heads, etc.

Our Championships are a 4-day event held in Wildwood, NJ and will be a separate cost. This will be detailed in another handout.

Attendance

Each member of the Percussion Ensemble is EXPECTED to attend all rehearsals and performances including Atlantic Coast Championships in Wildwood, NJ. Failure to attend rehearsals may result in the exclusion from performance opportunities, and possible removal from the group. Absences from rehearsals will only be excused with the direct permission of the Percussion Staff, Robert Teat or RJ Kelly, **PRIOR** to the rehearsals being missed (the earlier, the better). Sending notice in with another student without also providing advance notice to the instructional staff that you will not be attending **WILL NOT** be considered an excused absence.

Except for extenuating circumstances, excuses submitted after an absence will not be excused. If you know that you are going to be absent, you must let Mr. Teat or Mr. Kelly know either by email or a phone call.

In order to insure that we have full participation in rehearsals and performances, we have established the following list of attendance requirements.

- Attached is a schedule of the season. All attendance requirements are based on the expectation that you will commit to these dates at this time. **In other words, if something else “comes up”, you are already committed to your performing ensemble.** This schedule is by no means etched in stone; you must have the flexibility to make necessary changes. You will always have adequate and up to date information as it unfolds.
- Please note and always remember that your attendance at all rehearsals and performances is necessary and critical to our success as a performance unit.
- If you have anything on your schedule that may conflict with the rehearsal schedule, it is the responsibility of the individual performer to discuss it with the director **BEFORE** you commit to the activity.
- Emergency situations that arise throughout the season will be dealt with on an individual basis by the director.

Behavior:

The Appoquinimink School District Code of Conduct is in effect at all times. This includes at rehearsals, competitions, and bus rides to and from performances. A copy of the Code of Conduct is maintained in the Director's office should any student or parent need to reference specific items.

Remember, in and out of uniform, you represent the best that the Appoquinimink School District, and specifically, the Middletown High School music program has to offer. Be sure to conduct yourselves in a manner that is becoming of a young professional. Many students have worked hard to establish the music program and the

privileges bestowed upon it (traveling to compete, weekend functions, support, etc), always respect that hard work by being a “model student.”

Requirements/Expectations

1. BE PUNCTUAL!! “To be early is to be on time, to be on time is to be late, and to be late is not to be.” The set practice time is when rehearsals BEGIN. Arrive at the school before this scheduled time to allow you to:
 - Get your equipment
 - Arrange room for rehearsal
 - Warmups, etc
2. Being prepared mentally to learn work, movement, “tech-ing”, and performing.
3. Practice individually on your own time (before practice, on off days, etc). Practice is you working on your responsibilities; Rehearsal is a time for everyone to work together.
4. Come prepared to rehearse
 - Equipment must be out and ready to go at rehearsal time
 - All necessary equipment must come with you to rehearsal
 - Water and Nutritious Snacks should accompany all students to each rehearsal
5. Behave appropriately at all rehearsals and performances. Remember, you not only represent yourself at rehearsals and performances, but you represent your school and the MHS Music department! At the director’s discretion, inappropriate behavior may lead to dismissal from the ensemble.
6. Attendance at all rehearsals and performances is mandatory! Exceptions would include...absence from school due to illness, family emergency, etc. Please refer to the “Attendance” section of this packet.
7. Maintain the minimum grade point average for eligibility. Manage time efficiently so that school work and the winter percussion do not conflict. Do not wait until the night a project is due and make the choice to skip rehearsals to complete it. Homework is not an excuse to miss rehearsals.
8. Practice teamwork and good sportsmanship at all times:
 - Try your best at every practice and during performances; to learn from your mistakes, accept constructive criticism, and not get angry with yourself or others for making a mistake.
 - Pay attention to, and respect all instructors
 - Accept roles and performance opportunities assigned (“there are no small parts just small actors”)
 - Be positive and encourage fellow members.

- Take pride in our team, regardless of score or placement.
9. Work hard to create and perform a fantastic show for the audience!

Parent Support and Responsibilities:

The participation of your student in this program will hopefully prove to be not only rewarding for your students but for you, the parent and guardian as well. Please help us in establishing the proper attitude, showing support for what your child is doing by attending performances of the ensemble, and encouraging your child to practice on their own time.

The Band Booster organization is another great way to get involved with your child's activity. We will need help chaperoning, moving equipment, fundraising, etc. More information will follow.

Most of all, we welcome parent support as a "cheering section" when we perform. Parents are always welcome and encouraged to come at the end of rehearsals to watch a run through of the show. We are proud of what our students accomplish and we know that you will be also!

If at any point you have a concern about any aspect of the program please communicate directly with the Director of Percussion or Director of Bands.

Uniforms:

A uniform design has yet to be decided. At the time uniforms are decided it will be communicated to the students and to the parents in take home materials on proper care and wear. Please insure that all uniforms are presentable (clean and not wrinkled) for all performances. A student whose uniform is considered to not be presentable may be removed by the staff for the performance in question.

Middletown HS Indoor Drumline, Colorguard, and Jazz Band Contract

In order to insure that we have full participation in rehearsals and performances, we, the MHS Instrumental Staff, have established the following list of attendance requirements.

- Attached is a schedule of your appropriate group as of the date listed. All attendance requirements are based on the expectation that you will commit to these dates at this time. In other words, if something else comes up, you are already committed to your performing ensemble.
- Keeping in mind that everyone in guard, drumline and jazz band is a “varsity starter” (there are no reserves or substitutes) your attendance at all rehearsals and performances is necessary and critical to our success.
- Once the season begins, attendance is mandatory at all functions.
 - If you have an unexcused absence from rehearsal during the week, you will not perform in the performance that week.
 - If you have a second unexcused absence from a rehearsal, you will be dismissed from your performing group.
 - An unexcused absence from a performance may result in your dismissal from your performing group at the discretion of the director and Mr. Endlein.
 - For student leaders, 1 unexcused absence from rehearsal will result in loss of student leader status.
 - For the parents: While we recognize the importance of discipline, we would ask that you do not punish your child by not allowing them to attend a practice or a performance. Doing so punishes the entire group and hurts the group’s chances for success. We would request that you please choose disciplinary measures that limit the punishment to your child only. A practice missed because of punishment will have to be considered unexcused and may result in your child’s dismissal from the group. We ask that you please take this into consideration before allowing your child to join this activity.
- If you have anything on your schedule that may conflict with the rehearsal schedule, please discuss it with the director(s) BEFORE you commit to the indoor activity.
- Emergency situations that arise will be dealt with on an individual basis by the appropriate staff.
- Signatures are required for participation. **ONE** copy of this form **PER GROUP** is to be returned to Mr. Endlein by 11/25/14. Failure to do so will result in your dismissal from your respective group.

(please detach at dotted line)

PLEASE LIST GROUP THIS CONTRACT IS FOR HERE _____

We have read AND understand the requirements as put forth in the above document. Furthermore, we understand that membership in these ensembles is a commitment and a privilege. Please detach and return to Mr. Endlein by 11/25/14.

Student Name

Student Signature

Parent Name

Parent Signature

Date