



The Menomonee Falls High School Band Handbook

2021-2022 School Year

Andrew Hacker

hackand@sdmfschools.org

Adam Hardt

hardada@sdmfschools.org

WELCOME TO THE MENOMONEE FALLS HIGH SCHOOL BAND PROGRAM!

The Menomonee Falls High School Band program enjoys a rich history of excellence in music education and performance. With emphasis on developing musicianship through musical performance, the program is an active contributor in the MFHS and Menomonee Falls communities.

Recent program accomplishments include:

- “Superior Award,” and “Bronze Award,” at Festival Disney, Orlando, FL, 2018
- Performance at Cadogan Hall in London, England 2015/2016
- London New Year’s Day Parade Representatives
- Appearances at the 2010 and 2007 Wisconsin State Music Conventions
- Concert performances at the Wisconsin State Capital
- Performances at Lincoln Center, New York City, 2009
- “Best in Class” award at Festival Disney, Orlando, FL, 2008
- “Best in Class” award at Music in the Parks, St. Louis, MO, 2007
- “Grand Champion” award at All-American Music Festival, Orlando, FL, 2005
- “Grand Champion” award at Crescent City Jazz Festival, New Orleans, LA, 2004
- “Outstanding Band Program” award, Heritage Festival, Chicago, IL, 2002
- “Outstanding Band” award, Carroll College Jazz Festival, Waukesha, WI, 2002
- Clinics/performances with Doc Severinsen, Millar Brass Ensemble (Chicago, IL), Dallas Brass, Warren Wiegatz, Dennis DiBlasio (New York, NY), Bob Baca (UW-Eau Claire), Marshall Gilkes (New York, NY), Scott Teeple (UW-Madison), Dr. John Climer (UW-Milwaukee), Tom Dvorak (UW-Milwaukee), Dr. Scott Emmons (UW-Milwaukee), Dr. Scott Corley (UW-Milwaukee), Dr. Lawrence Harper (Carroll University), Dr. Adam Gaines (UW-Green Bay)
- Commission of seven new works for band by composers of national regard
- First Runner-Up for National Band Association Dale C. Harris Outstanding Band Award
- Recognized as a Grammy Signature School
- Eau Claire Jazz Festival Participant

Menomonee Falls High School Band students and alumni have been selected to perform in many outstanding ensembles, including:

- The National Symphony Orchestra, Washington, D.C.
- The Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra
- The Milwaukee Philharmonic
- The Curtis Orchestra, Philadelphia, PA
- The Aspen Music Festival Orchestra, Aspen, CO
- The Wisconsin Philharmonic, Waukesha, WI
- National Wind Ensemble, New York, NY
- Wisconsin State Honors Band
- Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra (MYSO)
- The Youth Wind Orchestra of Wisconsin (YWOW)
- UW-Milwaukee Youth Wind Ensemble (UWAY)
- UW-Milwaukee Honors Band
- Civic Music Association - Milwaukee

Music Department Mission Statement

The Menomonee Falls Music Department provides a relevant and accessible musical experience so that all students can make informed decisions as participants in music, cultivating a life-long understanding and appreciation.

Beliefs:

- We believe students can learn in a challenging and nurturing environment.
- We believe students must develop individual skills and knowledge, and be provided opportunities for aesthetic expression.
- We believe it is necessary to work together with the staff, students and the community.

Grading Policy

This document will contain the information students and parents need for successful membership in the Menomonee Falls High School Band program. As a member of the Menomonee Falls High School Band program, your semester grade will be determined using the following five areas and percentages:

1. Class participation/attendance – 30%
2. Appropriate and complete participation in required performances – 30%
3. Sectionals/Small Ensemble Rehearsals – 15%
4. Music testing – 15%
5. Semester exam – 10%

Required Materials

Beginning this year, all Freshmen students will need to purchase the resource, *Foundations for Superior Performance* from Kjos Publishing. Students will need this book by the third week of school. Students may purchase the book from MFHS. Checks should be made payable to MFHS. The cost of the book is \$7.

1. Class participation/attendance – 30% of student's semester grade

Rehearsal periods are where the majority of our music making will take place. It is crucial that each member of an ensemble comes to rehearsal ready to participate, cooperate, and improve. Points will be deducted from a student's grade for unexcused tardies, unexcused absences, inappropriate class behavior, and failure to bring instrument, music, or required materials to class.

2. Attendance at required performances – 30% of student's semester grade

A great deal of time and effort on the part of the members of a musical group goes into making every performance successful. Every member has a unique and important contribution to every performance. Ensembles are structured and rehearsed in such a manner as to give identity and

responsibility to all members. Musical groups must perform major events with 100% of their membership.

To excuse any individual from a performance is unfair to others in the group who make arrangements for their families and their employers to participate in a responsible manner. Should an unusual situation arise which you feel is a legitimate reason for not being present at a required performance, a written request from a parent must be submitted to the student's director a minimum of **two weeks prior** to the performance. **It is the responsibility of the student to check for conflicts as soon as performance dates are posted at the beginning of the school year.** Most conflicts can be resolved if they are identified early enough.

Major performances are considered important culminating activities. As such, student participation will be graded as if the performance were a major exam. An unexcused absence from a performance will result in the student receiving a score of zero for that performance.

In order to receive full credit for a performance, the student must:

- **Arrive on time**
- **Be dressed according to the predetermined concert attire**
- **Conduct him/herself in an appropriate and professional manner**

Memorial Day Parade

The Menomonee Falls Memorial Day Parade is an extremely important performance in our annual calendar. It is possible that more people view the band at this performance than at all other concerts combined. Considering this, we request that all families include the parade in any Memorial Day weekend plans. Should an **extreme** situation arise which should result in an absence from the parade, the student must perform the twelve harmonic minor scales on his/her instrument. These scales must be memorized and performed ascending and descending, one octave. Should a student not complete this alternative assignment, s/he will receive a grade of zero for the parade performance. All band students will participate in the Memorial Day Parade performance.

From time to time, band students have the opportunity to be involved in the parade both with the band and with another group. Should this situation arise, contact Mr. Hacker or Mr. Hardt as soon as possible to discuss options.

Pep Band – Football and Basketball

The band program is represented at football and basketball games as a pep band. Pep Band performances for home football games are required for members of Wind Symphony, Symphonic Band, and Freshman Band. Additional performances may be added to the schedule if the football team advances in the playoffs. The band sits in the home stands and you are welcome to perform at as many football games as you wish. Dress for football games is casual, spirit wear is encouraged. The school dress code still applies. All students are required to perform and attendance will be taken at each event. Students should individually contact the directors should a conflict arise.

Pep Band performances for boys' and girls' home basketball games are required for members of Wind Symphony, Symphonic Band, and Freshman Band. The pep band will perform at most Friday night home basketball games. Each student will be required to attend eight basketball pep band performances. Additional performances may be added to the schedule if either of the basketball

teams advances in the playoffs. Students who perform at basketball games received free admission to the game. You are welcome to perform at as many basketball games as you wish. Dress for basketball games is casual, spirit wear is encouraged. The school dress code still applies. All students are required to perform and attendance will be taken at each event. Students should individually contact the directors should a conflict arise. Dates will be provided in the first semester so ample time to plan will be available.

Pep band performances are very important, as we will be extremely visible to the school and to the community. In addition, they are fun and students receive free admission to the games. The basketball pep band schedule will be announced in early November.

3. Sectionals/Small Ensemble Rehearsals – 15% of student’s semester grade

Most of our small-group instruction and assessment takes place in the form of sectional rehearsals. These rehearsals will provide students with the opportunity to focus on instrument- and section-specific concerns in a small group setting. These sectional rehearsals will take place during the student’s band period. In order for these rehearsals to be beneficial, it is important that students come to sectional rehearsals prepared and eager to improve. Sectional schedules and rehearsal goals will be communicated to students ahead of time in order to provide students with ample time to prepare. This rehearsal structure will result in improved performance levels for each individual student and for each band.

4. Music Testing – 15% of student’s semester grade

Playing assignments will be assigned at various times throughout the semester. Seating auditions completed at the beginning of the school year are included in the playing assignment portion of the student’s grade, and should be prepared thoroughly.

5. Semester exam – 10% of student’s semester grade

The final exam for each band class will involve the student creating a written reflection regarding the semester’s growth with writing a specific set of criteria. The exam will be due at the conclusion of the exam period. The exam will be distributed before the exam period so the student may draft ideas and concepts to be used in the final assessment.

Students do not have the option to exempt band final exams.

Honors Requirements

Students have the option to take any instrumental music class for honors credit. An exception to this is Wind Symphony, which is taken exclusively for honors credit. Students in an honors unit of a

band or orchestra class will have extra requirements that must be satisfied each semester. Failure to complete these honors requirements will lower a student's grade by one letter. Projects must be completed at a level reflecting honors transcript designation.

First Semester

Students have one honors requirement for first semester, and four options to complete it:

Option 1 – Students may perform in a regularly-rehearsing extra-curricular music ensemble such as MYSO, UWAY, UJAY, YWOW, or one of the high school jazz ensembles. If you would like information on these groups, please consult your director.

Option 2 – Students may complete a performance jury. A jury is a specific playing assignment which will be scheduled and performed for a group of music teachers at the end of the semester.

Option 3 – Concert Critiques – Students may attend two concerts of their choice and complete a two page concert critique per concert accompanied by concert program/ticket stub. Concerts must be art music (i.e. band, choir, orchestra, chamber ensemble) and should be preapproved by the director. Critique rubric includes instrumentation, analysis of music (rhythm, melody, harmony, timbre), and aesthetic appeal.

Option 4 - Student-lead ensembles – Students may form their own chamber ensembles (i.e. brass quintet, string quartet, jazz combo, etc.). This project would include:

- Recruiting players
- Selecting literature
- Rehearsing
- Finding a performance venue
- Creating a concert program for audience members

Option 5 – Director Approved Project – Students may discuss other options that will fulfil honors requirement.

Second Semester

Students have two honors requirements for first semester. In addition to completing one of the four options from first semester, students must perform a solo or a NON-CONDUCTED ensemble at Solo and Ensemble Festival.

Communication

We will communicate with students and families in several ways. Most of our communication will be through direct emails, announcements in class, and handouts to students. If you have questions feel free to contact us through email or phone. We can respond most quickly to email during the school day.

Mr. Hacker: hackand@sdmfschools.org

Mr. Hardt: hardada@sdmfschools.org

*Please be sure that you have a current email on file with the school so our emails will go through.

Music Study Halls

Students have the opportunity to spend their study halls in a music room with a pass provided by a music teacher. Study halls are excellent opportunities to practice and get additional help from a teacher. There are certain expectations of students attending music study hall:

- **Students must spend half of each study hall period working toward a music-related goal.**
- Students must remain in one of the music classrooms for the entire study hall period. If a student needs to leave for any reason, a music teacher must sign out
- If a student is found outside of a music classroom without permission, that student will lose music study hall privileges for the remainder of the semester. This includes the music hallway.
- Students are expected to treat school music equipment and other students' belongings respectfully.
- No food, gum or drink is allowed in any music classroom at any time.

Study halls will be open based on availability of music teachers and music class schedules.

Concert Attire

The concert attire for **Wind Symphony, Symphonic Band, and Freshman Band** is as follows:

All students: All dress black clothing. Please avoid leggings, yoga pants, jeans, and sneakers. All black shoes, belts, socks, nylons, shirts, pants, skirts, etc. are required and are furnished by students and their families.

Marching performances will be determined with ample time.

Jazz Ensembles

Jazz Band– Mr. Hardt, director

Jazz Ensemble meets zero hour and will be offered for credit. Attendance at all rehearsals and performances are required. Please plan accordingly.

Private Lessons

Private study of an instrument is the best way to make consistent progress. Below is a list of private lesson teachers we have worked with in the past. This is not a complete list, but should provide you with a good starting point in selecting a private teacher.

Flute			French Horn	
Aaron Gardner	414-731-4002		Sue Beekman	262-305-2359
Melissa Gilchrist	414-559-9497		Kathy Krubsack	414-243-1985
Jon Lovas	414-322-4217		Elizabeth Sievert	414-550-1210
Carol Meaves	414-449-9755			
Tatiana Pearson	www.tatianaflutist.com		Trumpet	
Julia Richter	juliarichter11@hotmail.com		Matt Antonawitz	262-295-7866
			Adam Fisher	afisher@wcmusic.org
			Kathy Krubsack	414-243-1985
Clarinet			Pete Lange	262-527-9237
Nancy Herro	262-628-4610		Don Sipe	www.donaldsipe.com
Jon Lovas	414-322-4217			
Dr. Laura McLaughlin	lauramclaughlin@gmail.com			
Lauren Revers	920-246-3663		Trombone, Baritone & Tuba	
			Kate Hardt	262-844-0922
			Mark Hoelscher	414-332-9724
Oboe			Dr. Brett Keating	262-490-2343
Suzanne Geoffrey	414-302-5950		Elissa Knapp	816-217-8568
Katherine Young Steele	steeleky@uwm.edu		Erik Ludwig	989-600-7610
Sarah Zawadiwsky	414-364-3406		Dr. Emmy Rozanski	www.emmyrozanski.com
			Dr. David Spies	608-441-0279
Bassoon				
Kathy Hibler	262-786-8936		Percussion	
Steve Whitney	262-798-9700		Nick Lang	414-339-0906
			Chris Mell	262-295-7866
Saxophone			Jim Ryan	414-630-2019
Aaron Gardner	414-731-4002		Mitch Shiner	414-460-7906
Jeff Gilchrist	414-559-9497		Dr. Alex Wier	www.alexwier.com
Jon Lovas	414-322-4217			
Dave Petty	262-384-0230			
Nicki Roman	romann@uwm.edu			

Band Awards

The MFHS Band Program presents several awards each year to outstanding band students. Some of these awards are reserved for graduating seniors, while others are available to all students. Awards are reserved for students who exemplify musicianship, leadership, integrity, and dedication to the band program.

The Menomonee Falls Band Orch Bunch Scholarship

The Band Orch Bunch Scholarship is presented annually to a senior who is planning on continuing instrumental performance at the college level. Criteria for selection include musical involvement, service, and financial need. Interested students should look for application information in the local scholarship section of the MFHS website in the spring.

The Menomonee Falls Concerto Competition

The concerto competition is open to any member of the MFHS band program. Interested students prepare a piece of solo literature and audition for a panel on MFHS music teachers. The winning

student receives the honor of performing his/her piece with the Wind Symphony at the final concert of the year, as well as a cash award sponsored by the Band Orch Bunch.

Solo and Ensemble Awards

Students have the option to purchase medals representing their achievements at the Solo and Ensemble Festival. Medals are \$4 each, and order forms are distributed the Monday following the festival. Students who earn a rating of 1* on a class A solo are strongly encouraged to perform at the Evening of Stars recital. Students who participate in this event are presented with a trophy recognizing their effort and achievement. In addition, the two top performers at the Evening of Stars recital receive a scholarship to further their music studies.

These awards will be presented at the annual MFHS Band Awards Program. This event recognizes the efforts and successes of each student in the program. This year's Band Awards Program will be determined at a later date due to our current needs.

Booster Group – The Menomonee Falls Band Orch Bunch

The Band Orch Bunch is the booster organization of the Menomonee Falls band program. This organization supports the program in many ways, including:

- Purchase of acoustic panels for Auditorium
- Purchase of percussion cabinet and stand rack
- Purchase of a new sound system for the MFHS Band Room
- Financial support of the MFHS MIDI Lab
- Purchase of new tuxedos and tuxedo racks
- Purchase of marching percussion equipment
- Purchase of marching polos
- Organizing the annual Jazz 'n Java event
- Financial support of commission projects
- And many more!

If you are interested in being involved in the Band Orch Bunch, please visit their website, located at www.fallsbandorch.org. Please consider volunteering your time to this organization. The success of the MFHS band program would not be possible without awesome supporters.

[MFHS Band/Orchestra Calendar 2021-2022](#) (click link)

Student/Parent Agreement Form

Please fill out this form and return it to your ensemble director at school on or before **Friday, September, 10th, 2021.**

We have read and understood the Menomonee Falls High School Band handbook for the 2021-2022 school year. I understand what is expected of me/my child as a member of the Menomonee Falls High School Band Program.

Print student name

Student signature

Date

Print parent/guardian name

Parent/guardian signature

Date

Menomonee Falls Music Department Mission Statement/ Beliefs

The Menomonee Falls Music Department provides a relevant and accessible musical experience so that all students can make informed decisions as participants in music, cultivating a life-long understanding and appreciation.

Beliefs:

- We believe students can learn in a challenging and nurturing environment.
- We believe students must develop individual skills and knowledge, and be provided opportunities for aesthetic expression.
- We believe it is necessary to work together with the staff, students and the community.