



**MAINLAND  
REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL**



## Mainland Regional High School Alma Mater

Our alma mater  
Mainland High School  
We now sing your praise.

Through these hallowed halls of learning  
we spend glorious days!

And through our lives  
our fondest memories  
in our hearts will stay.

We'll remember Mainland High,  
forever and a day!



# Handbook

2016-2017



Mainland Regional High School  
1301 Oak Ave.  
Linwood, NJ 08221

Directed by  
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## Ending Remarks

Dear parents and students,

Do not panic if the details outlined in this book seem overwhelming! There are many experienced band members and parents that are more than happy to help new families learn the ropes! We are all in this together. Many have described the marching band experience as being a part of a talented and committed close-knit family.

By joining the marching band, you immediately become an integral part of Mainland Regional High School and the instrumental music department. Both band parents and students will instantly gain dozens of new close friends with whom they will share many memorable events together.

I am *very* excited to have the honor to be working with each of you! Let's have a great season! Go Mustangs!



Mr. Derek Rohaly  
Marching Band Director  
drohaly@mainlandregional.net

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## ABOUT MARCHING BAND

### WHAT IS MARCHING BAND?

Marching band is a unique performing group. On the marching field, we combine dynamic music, motion, dance, visual art, theater, athleticism and unity into an entertaining and moving show. The experience of performing in marching band is demanding, but *very* rewarding. The feeling as we exit the field after an excellent show cannot be duplicated in any other art form. We are a competitive band, but competitions are simply viewed as another performance with a different audience.

Our focus remains the same for any audience...excellence in performance. During marching season (August-November) the band performs at all football games, competes in competitions, and in parades or at other community events. Students are required to attend Summer Band Camp, which is usually held during the first full week of August. Rehearsals through the summer months are scheduled by the beginning of June. Students must also attend after school rehearsals on Tuesday and Thursday nights during the school year. Attendance at all rehearsals, football games, competitions, parades and other required events is mandatory.



## BAND BOOSTER OFFICERS

### THE LATEST OFFICER

### CONTACT INFORMATION

### CAN BE FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE:

<http://marchingband.derekrohaly.com>



The band booster officer positions include:

- |                       |                        |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| -President            | -Vice President        |
| -Treasurer            | -Secretary             |
| -Fundraising Chair    | -Food Coordinator      |
| -Town Representatives | -Coin Drop Coordinator |

## Other Opportunities

There are many things that the MRHS band needs from you, the parents and band boosters. If there is some way in which you feel that you can serve the band, feel free to discuss this with the director. All ideas will be entertained, carefully thought out, and discussed with the principal and any other relevant persons. We want you involved in your child's education and will find a way for you to help them succeed in that endeavor both in and out of band. We thank you for your support, because without you, none of what we do is possible.

### *Volunteer Areas*

- Advertising
- Marketing/Outreach
- Alumni development
- Baking
- Meals/Refreshments for students
- Construction/setup of props
- Truck/Equipment maintenance
- Fundraising
- Hospitality
- Uniform Management
- Sewing
- Car wash supervising
- Volunteering as a nurse
- Photography/Videography
- Website development

## BAND CAMP

Band camp sets the foundation for the marching season. Band camp is held in the first or second full week of August at Mainland Regional High School. By working for a full week, we are able to learn the majority (if not the entire) of the competitive show. A separate packet of detailed information about band camp will be available towards the end of each school year.

You must prepare yourself physically and mentally for band camp.

Everyone needs to be able to perform at his or her maximum level. Prepare

yourself by exercising, getting plenty of rest, eating well and drinking plenty of water before and during band camp. You are athletes in training, so you need to treat your body to proper nutrition, sleep, and hydration, especially during the intense training at band camp.



## REHEARSALS

For the band program to be successful, it is necessary for all students to attend all rehearsals. Even one person absent can take away from the progress of the entire group. When we perform, there will be other performers depending on each other to contribute to the efforts of the ensemble. In band there is no bench we can call on in the event of absence. The only excused absences from a rehearsal or performance are the following: 1) serious personal illness or 2) family emergency (such as death in the family). Work, homework/studying, or lack of transportation are not excused absences. The director should be contacted in advance whenever possible. A written note from a parent or physician should be presented in all situations. Only the director can excuse an absence, not a student leader or staff member.

(Rehearsals continued...)

There is a direct link between the amount of quality practice time and the quality of our performances. Attendance at all rehearsals, football games, competitions, parades, and other events listed on the calendar is mandatory. Students who accumulate a significant amount of tardies and/or absences, no matter the reason, will forfeit their right to perform with the ensemble, at the director's discretion.

Every student and parent must understand the importance of being committed to attending all scheduled band events. Please be sure to continue to refer to the rehearsal calendar on <http://marchingband.derekrohaly.com>. Should a conflict arise, please contact the director as soon as possible. Tardiness to rehearsal can also affect the progress of the band. On occasions when tardiness is inevitable, please communicate this to the director in advance through email. The rehearsal schedule is established weeks in advance. This is done so that you can coordinate personal schedules with rehearsals. Should continued conflicts arise, a conference with the director may be in order. If you are involved in another school activity (ex. sports team or club) contact the director as soon as possible so a working schedule can be constructed to ensure success in all activities. We do know that there is life outside of band and want to support you in other endeavors.

- All band members are expected to be at the field (or other specified location) 5 minutes before the start of rehearsal. The rehearsal will often start with a warm-up block or conditioning. The 5-minute buffer gives the students time to organize their belongings on the side of the field/track and do any personal stretches.
- Students will not be allowed to leave the rehearsal area without expressed consent of the director at any time. This includes being in the band room. This is for the safety and well-being of everyone.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARENT INVOLVEMENT

### Band Boosters

The Band Boosters is an organization for parents of current band members and people in the community who are interested in the welfare of the band. It has its own constitution with guidelines. This is a separate entity from the band and the school. The booster organization elects its own executive board that oversee the organization's efforts. The group primarily raises money for the MRHS Marching Band and plans social events for all of the school's instrumental music members. Meetings occur on a regular basis in the band room. The band boosters do not set band policies or make business decisions without the consent of the superintendent, principal, and band director.

### Chaperones

Chaperones have the opportunity to help accompany the band to a variety of locations. All chaperones ride on the buses to and from events (football games, competitions, parades, trips, etc.). While at the events, a chaperone's main focus is the safety and well-being of all students. This often translates to taking attendance, accompanying students to restroom areas, and helping the director with miscellaneous errands on location.



(Student Officers continued...)

## QUARTERMASTERS

The Quartermasters are in charge of managing all equipment. They are responsible for moving all equipment to/from rehearsal areas.

The Quartermasters will also be the primary student help when unloading and reloading the equipment truck. Each new set of Quartermasters may choose to delegate their responsibilities to each other as they see fit.



## LIBRARIAN

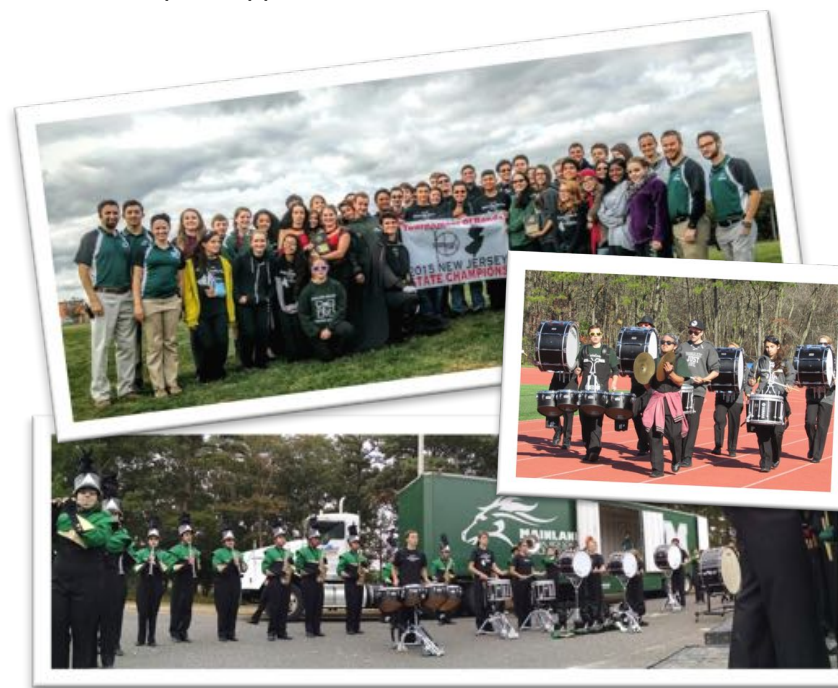
The Librarian shall be responsible to help the director maintain the music library, help order missing parts from publishers, make copies of music and pass out any music that the band director selects for the band. The Librarian will also be responsible for any duties delegated to him/her by the Band Director. The Librarian is also the secretary of the band council and shall take minutes of the band council meetings as well as handle any correspondence that the band or band council needs.

## BAND COUNCIL

The Band Council consists of the Drum Major, all Section Leaders, Color Guard Captain, Librarian, and Historian. The function of the Band Council is to greet visiting bands as they come to MRHS, help keep the band manual up-to-date, and help make any student related decisions that will then be presented to the Band Director, Principal, and Band Boosters. The Band Council is also responsible for any other business that comes before the band, such as public relations and social functions. The Band Council will assist in “New Marchers Rehearsals” held in the summer.

(Rehearsals continued...)

- Always have the following with you for rehearsals:
  - Coordinate sheets and dot book, water jug, weather appropriate clothing, sneakers, music binder, a pencil, stand music flip folders, instrument, and a positive attitude.
- The director reserves the right to cancel any rehearsal and will try to inform the students at least 24 hours in advance. If extra rehearsals are needed, the director will try to inform students a week in advance so work schedules can be altered. Any conflicts with extra rehearsals shall be duly considered.
- During the marching season, the band will rehearse from 6-9pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Sectionals are *highly* encouraged and are scheduled by section leaders with prior approval from the director.



## PERFORMANCE PROCEDURES

A band's reputation is made during a performance. It is the ultimate test of the band's quality. Students are expected to act their best and behave professionally during performances. The quality of the band can easily be judged on its appearance, musical performance, execution of marching maneuvers, and personal behavior. The consistent level of performance and quality of a band is its reputation. We must do our best to uphold a reputation for excellence, professionalism, and respectability.



The Marching Band performs at numerous public and school-related events and represents MRHS and the community. The highest levels of discipline, commitment, and conduct will be expected of all members. The

following performance procedures have been established to help maintain the proper impression of our school, band program and community. These guidelines are in place for football games, competitions, parades, and as needed elsewhere.

### Home Football Game Procedures

The band is an important part of "Friday Night" football games in most parts of the country and certainly here at MRHS. The Band serves as the musical link to our community and as such represents the finest things about our school in everything we do as a group. All students must follow our procedures so that our group can do its job in an excellent manner, efficiently and quickly.

*(Student Officers continued...)*

### SECTION LEADERS

Section Leaders are the representatives of their section. They take attendance, conduct section rehearsals (marching and music), and help motivate their section. Both leadership and musical ability are needed when serving in these positions. Section leaders should plan their rehearsals so that new music and difficult passages can be covered. It is possible to be section leader, but not first chair of a section. The band director appoints the section leader after going through the selection process. Section leaders are the representatives of their section to the Band Council and to the director. They may also be elected to serve on committees or to auxiliary offices on the band council as needed or desired by the council and/or the band director.

### COLOR GUARD CAPTAIN

The Color Guard Captain is the equivalent of an instrumental section leader. The Color Guard Captain checks to make sure that everyone in the section has the needed equipment at all times and helps reinforce/teach work made by the Color Guard staff member. The Color Guard Captain is directly under the drum major and equal to section leaders. He/she must help motivate members of the guard and take attendance like other section leaders. The newly selected Color Guard Captain may also be elected to serve on committees or to auxiliary offices or the Band Council as needed or desired by the council and/or the band director.

### HISTORIAN

The Band Historian is responsible for keeping records throughout the year. The year's accomplishments will be documented through pictures, videos, newspaper articles, press releases, competition results, and other participated events. The Historian must be well organized and neat.



## STUDENT OFFICER POSITIONS

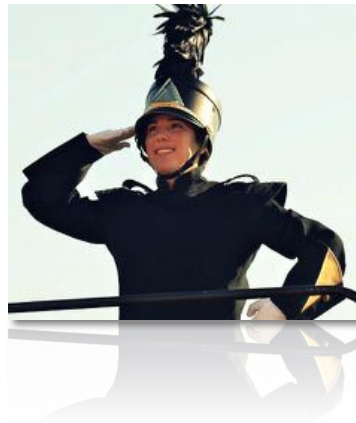
Marching band provides a unique opportunity for students to develop leadership skills. The officer structure is set up to maximize the efficiency of rehearsals and performances. In order for a marching band to be successful, it must have strong leaders in all areas. The leadership positions are open to all returning marching students with at least one year of experience.

Those students wishing to take a leadership position must be willing to work for the band and should already be exhibiting the qualities of a leader. Therefore the MRHS band will have an application and interview process to help identify potential positive leaders. Each student wishing to apply for leadership positions must complete the following process:

1. Fill out an application
2. Ask THREE Mainland teachers to complete a recommendation form. Teachers will then submit the form to the director.
3. Complete an interview with the marching band staff

### DRUM MAJOR

The drum major is the student director of the band and is the highest-ranking officer on the band field and in the classroom. He or she will help the director work with the band by assisting in teaching and correcting marching performance, acting as a policeman to correct minor discipline problems, helping rehearse various groups musically, working with each section to ensure that continuity of style is held throughout the band as well as any other responsibilities delegated to him/her by the Band Director. The Drum Major represents the band at ceremonies and other events that have the possibility of media coverage.



*(Football Game Procedures cont.)*

- Arrival time is typically 5:30 pm, except in rare cases where it needs to be adjusted. All home games usually start at 7:00 pm.
- Attendance is taken at the onset of warm-up rehearsal before the performance.
- All instruments and equipment must be working, cleaned, polished, and ready to go.
- Full inspection will occur for winds, guard, and percussion.
- Following inspection, the band will finalize preparations for their pre-game performance and line up to march to the stadium as a band.
- The band is responsible for performing the Star Spangled Banner and the Fight Song at the onset of the game. Each section has an assigned seating area. Students are expected to sit in their sections and must remain with the section for the duration of the game.
- No one is allowed in the band seating area except band members, staff, parent chaperones and guests of the director. Friends are not allowed in the band stands at any time.
- The full uniform will remain on unless the band director specifically instructs otherwise. In the event of the director allowing for the jackets to be removed, students must be wearing the uniform t-shirt underneath. If a shirt other than the uniform t-shirt is worn, the jacket must stay on!
- Students will play as a group in the stands. **PAY ATTENTION TO THE DRUM MAJOR. PLAY ONLY WHEN YOU ARE DIRECTED TO. NO NOODLING!**
- No profanity or otherwise offensive language will be tolerated.
- If you bring food back into the stands, YOU are responsible to clean up. The band will NOT leave until our seating area is clean of garbage.

(Football Game Procedures cont.)

- After halftime, the band will report to a common meeting place to discuss the show. Students will be dismissed from the group meeting and are expected to be back in their sections with 5 minutes remaining in the 3rd quarter. The band will play pep tunes and cheers for the 4th quarter when the “4th quarter percussion” returns. This schedule is subject to change when necessary.
- No one will be dismissed from the stands without prior approval from the band director. A written request from parents will be required. No students will be dismissed before the halftime performance.
- At the conclusion of the game and playing of Mainland’s Alma Mater, the band will line up to march back to the band room or buses as a unit. Once at the destination, students will listen to instructions and announcements from the director.
- All plumes and gauntlets must be in the proper shako box. If the uniform becomes wet from rain or snow, you must take home the uniform to properly air dry by HANGING it at home. Do NOT throw it in a ball at the bottom of the uniform bag!
- Away game report times vary due to travel distances. Report time to MRHS will be given the week of the football game. No uniforms will be worn for away games because the band does not perform the half-time show – only pep tunes in the stands. Color Guard travels to away games.



(Uniforms continued...)

## UNIFORM RULES

- Full uniform must be worn at all times unless otherwise instructed by the director.
- No deviations from the above stated uniforms may be made (i.e. navy socks, non-band t-shirt, etc.)
- No jewelry (including watches) or excessive makeup is to be worn with the uniform.
- Shoes should be clean and polished for each performance.
- Uniforms must be put away properly and **SHOULD NEVER BE PUT ON THE FLOOR**. Pants need to be hung neatly on the hangers.
- Gauntlets may be stored in shako boxes or in the garment bag back zipper.
- When students are allowed to eat in uniform at football games, foods that can stain the uniform should be avoided. (ketchup, mustard, chocolate, etc.)
- Students are responsible for keeping track of the uniform and uniform parts.
- Students will be held financially responsible for lost or damaged uniform parts.



## UNIFORM CLEANING

All uniforms will be cleaned in bulk through the school approximately once a year. This could change depending on circumstances surrounding usage. Our uniforms can be put through the wash, but only do so by following the specific directions laid out by the uniform parent. *Any damage done to the uniform is the responsibility of the student. The student will pay for damages outside of the “normal wear and tear”.*

## UNIFORMS

The presentation of our students in any performance is important. This organization stands for excellence and the appearance of our young people is essential to the presentation of the show we perform. Therefore, these specific uniform policies and procedures are in place for all members of this organization.

Marching band members will wear the full uniform for all home games and competitions unless otherwise indicated.



- Uniform Jacket
- Black pants
- LONG black socks
- Gauntlets
- Shako and plume
- Clean shoes\*
- Clean gloves\*
- Specified band t-shirt underneath the jacket at all times

\*Shoes & gloves are to be purchased by the individual band member prior to the start of band camp

### Color Guard Uniforms

The color guard uniform for the field shows changes from year to year. At the start of the season, guard members will be fitted for a custom uniform. Students in guard should have all parts of the uniform at every performance and should all be wearing the appropriate footwear as well.



### Competition Procedures

The Marching Band performs at numerous competitions in the fall. The highest levels of discipline, commitment, and conduct will be expected of all students. The following performance procedures have been established to help maintain the proper impression of our school and our band program in our community. These guidelines are for competitions and parades as needed. A detailed itinerary will be posted on the band website prior to the event.

- Arrival time will be made available as soon as the performance order is posted by TOB. Arrive at school on time and prepared for a “run through” rehearsal.
- The band competition t-shirt is to be worn the entire day, including under the uniform. Be sure to check the weather to see if wearing thermal shirts/pants will be necessary to be comfortable.
- After rehearsal, all equipment should be loaded quickly and efficiently.
- Prior to leaving MRHS, the staff and student leaders will do uniform inspections to be sure all proper items are accounted for. If a competition site is close, the band will travel in half-uniform by wearing the uniform pants and having jackets in the uniform bag.
- Upon arrival at the competition, equipment will be unloaded. Students should change into full uniform before assembling instruments. This should be done as efficiently as possible.
- All instruments should be assembled and all cases placed back on the truck. Winds and drums are not allowed to play until we reach the warm up area. All instruments and equipment must be cleaned, polished, and in good working order before heading to the warm-up area.



*(Competition Procedures cont.)*

- After the performance, students will pack up instruments. Quartermasters will primarily help load the truck but will need assistance from other students. No one is allowed back to the buses to change until given specific orders by the director.
- Often, a group of parents graciously provide food after the performance. Only when the truck is entirely packed will the band begin to eat. Use “please and thank you”. Kindness and manners say a lot about a person.
- After eating, students are allowed to enter the stadium to watch the remaining bands perform. Sit as a group and BE RESPECTFUL!
- During another band's performance, students are expected to show proper etiquette. Applauding when appropriate is perfectly fine. Shouting, laughing, or talking to other band members while a group is performing is highly inappropriate, rude and will not be tolerated.
- Chaperones are to be treated with respect at all times. If a student has a question about something a chaperone has asked them to do or not to do, s/he should comply with the chaperone and discuss the issue with the director at another time. Disrespect to any adult will not be tolerated.
- During awards, esprit de corps and enthusiasm are greatly encouraged, but respect should be shown at all times to other competing groups as well. Mean-spirited cheers, booing, or other displays of poor sportsmanship have no room in the Mainland tradition.



## INCLEMENT WEATHER

Rain and lightning are significant threats for any band that performs outdoors. Rain destroys instruments, damages uniforms and damages equipment. The main priority in bad weather will be individual safety. Protecting student instruments and equipment will also be factored in when creating alternative weather procedures. The following procedure will be followed in the event of rain...



### **Football Games**

During the game...

The band will leave the stadium at the director's discretion. Rain Jackets will be used when possible. Woodwinds should be kept under jackets or quickly put into cases. Once back in the band room, swab all woodwinds thoroughly and dry off all percussion instruments. Uniform coats and pants will be taken home. The uniforms shall be hung neatly on the hangers and placed to dry. Garment bags should be dried off as well and left unzipped for ventilation. The band should wait in the band room for further instructions from the director before leaving.

### **Competitions**

If it is raining...

The band will remain on the buses until the director can find out what is happening in order to give further directions. (Most competitions will have a rain contingency plan in place.)

### **Rehearsals**

If thunderstorms or heavy rain showers are in the forecast, an indoor rehearsal will take place at the scheduled rehearsal time. If it starts to rain while on the field, protecting equipment is priority. ALL students will help to quickly secure items (sound equipment, pit instruments, woodwinds, props, etc.). Once inside, indoor rehearsals will take place.