

Bishop McDevitt High School



2013-2014

Marching Band Handbook

Dear Students and Parents:

CONGRATULATIONS on your decision to be a part of the Crusader Marching Band!
We are very excited to welcome you to the 2013-2014 marching band. The music department has a great reputation of excellence, and we the staff look forward to working with all of you in another successful year.

This book is designed as a guide for you and your parent as to the workings of the marching band. For further information, feel free to contact me at **aspotts@bishopmcdevitt.org**.

Our goals as a program are to: develop musical skill both on and off of the field, learn to work together as a unit, develop leadership skills and time management, represent our school with pride wherever we are, and most of all
.....**HAVE FUN!!!**

Regards,

Mr. Spotts

General Information

Music: Every player is issued ONE set of music. Show music is to be memorized and will be checked during scheduled playing tests. Failure to prepare music will lower your grade.

Music is to be kept neat and in your marching binder with your drill at all times (binders can be purchased at places like Wal-Mart for under \$2). Stand charts or pep tunes will be kept in flip folders which may be purchased at most music stores. You will be charged for replacement copies of any lost music.

Uniforms: Uniforms will be stored at McD and passed out before each performance. You must purchase the appropriate marching shoes and gloves from the music association. Any damage done to the uniform will be charged to the student.

Instruments: School owned instruments are to be kept in good working condition at all times. If damage occurs to an instrument, it must be reported immediately to Mr. Spotts. Damage due to negligence will be the responsibility of the student to have repaired. Normal wear on the instrument will be taken care of by the school.

Rules and Code of Conduct

1. Do as I say, when and where I say to do it. This includes new rules or rules not listed below.
2. Do not assume that rehearsal is cancelled due to inclement weather. Wait for notification for any cancellations or modifications.
3. No eating or chewing gum during rehearsal. Water is permitted for breaks.

4. Have your instrument and marching binder with you at all times.
5. Be early for band rehearsal. Walking on the field at 6pm for a 6pm rehearsal is late. If we start on time, we end on time.
6. Keep the band room clean. The band lockers are not a dumping ground for your junk. No food or drink is permitted outside of the cafeteria (this includes the band room).
7. Only play your instrument or the instrument assigned to you.
8. Make sure everything is away at the conclusion of rehearsal.
9. Students may not drive to any performance. Special arrangements may be made with a parent driving.
10. All school rules are in effect at all band activities and rehearsals. This includes but is not limited to the use of profanity, appropriate dress, and the use of cell phones.
11. Hazing of any kind will not be tolerated and will result in the immediate removal from the band.
12. Treat all staff, chaperones, and fellow members with respect.

13. ***When in doubt refer to rule number 1!!!***

**Consequences will depend upon the severity and frequency of the problem.
Consequences are (but not restricted to):**

- Warning
- Detention
- Phone call home
- Lowered grade
- Demotion of position or leadership role
- Removal from band
- Removal from school

Attendance Policy

1. Attendance at all rehearsals and performances is mandatory. Lack of attendance will influence your grade and status in the band.
2. Absence from a band function must be excused by Mr. Spotts by the use of an absence request form (pink slip) on the following timeline. Failure to do so **WILL** result in a conference with Mr. Spotts, and possible dismissal from the band.
 - Practice - 1 week
 - Football games/parades - 2 weeks
 - Competition - 1 month

3. Student job commitments are NOT reason for an excused absence. Many band members work and participate successfully in the band. Give your employer a copy of the season schedule and have them contact Mr. Spotts if there are any questions.

4. Excused absences are at the discretion of Mr. Spotts, NOT student leaders, parents, or other staff members. In the event of an emergency (illness, death, etc.) contact Mr. Spotts ASAP by phone or email.

Football Games

Football games are fun, and we are there to perform and support the team. However, we must maintain a class act at all times. Band members may stand up and YELL/SCREAM in support of the team, but should always remain in their section. It is important to remain alert with all of the expensive equipment around you, as well as the need to play at a moment's notice.

Only *BAND STUDENTS* are allowed in the band section.

Uniform care and code / Instrument care

Separate Sheet

Rule Book Contract

I, _____, have read and agree to all of the information contained in the 2013-2014 marching band hand book.

(Student Signature)

(Parent Signature)