

# Elk County Catholic High School Band Handbook



Mr. Ray Knight, Director of Bands

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# 1. Introduction

## **1.1. Purpose of This Handbook**

This manual has been written for the Elk County Catholic H.S. Band Members and parents in order to share important information on the various aspects and requirements of the program. This manual was written from older versions of the handbook and revised based on suggestions from the Music Boosters and ECCHS Administration. It will be continue to be revised yearly to best suit the development of an outstanding band program. All band members and parents are encouraged to read this manual in its entirety each year to avoid conflicts with the policies stated within. Please do not hesitate to contact your director.

## **1.2. Purpose of the Music Booster Organization**

The Music Boosters of Elk County Catholic High School exists as an organization of parents of music students whose goal is to promote and maintain a high level of interest and participation in the music programs of ECCHS. This will entail financial as well as physical support from members, and cooperation with Music Department faculty and school administrators. All parents of music students are automatically members of this organization. Regular business meeting will be held on the first Wednesday of each month, or at a publicly announced time and date to discuss the needs and goals of the music program. Parents should be expected to participate enthusiastically in fund-raising programs. Parents are also asked to lend assistance, as deemed necessary by the band director, in activities supporting the band program. The music boosters are also expected to act as public advocates of the music program and support the director, staff, members, and accomplishments in the community. It is understood that a quality program needs support to survive, and the Music Boosters exist to provide that support.

## **1.3. Music Booster Officers**

The following are the roles and responsibilities of the elected Music Booster officers.

**President:** Preside over monthly meetings in accordance with the by-laws of the organization. Coordinate all fund-raising activities and volunteers as deemed necessary by band activities and the needs of the band director. Serves as a voting member of the ECCHS School Board at monthly school board meetings.

**Vice-President:** Assist the President and act as President as necessary.

**Secretary:** Keep accurate written minutes of all meeting business. Distribute meeting minutes to all music parents, teachers, staff and administrators monthly. Keep written records in a permanent form.

**Treasurer:** Maintain accurate financial records and make proper payments as necessary. Keep student accounts up to date. Coordinate fundraising needs with expected fiscal demands.

## **1.4. Chaperone Responsibilities**

Chaperones are necessary whenever the band travels. Chaperones are responsible for making sure that the band members are on the busses when required. Students are

expected to obey the chaperone as an agent of the director and the school, but the band director is in charge of disciplining students- chaperones are not. Please report any situations concerning student misbehavior to the band director as soon as possible so that appropriate action can be taken. Chaperones should help maintain a positive atmosphere that allows students to function well and focus on their performance. The director reserves discretion as to who is assigned to chaperone an event. It is understood that chaperones should remain a reasonable distance from the band while warming up and preparing for performance so as not avoid causing any undue distraction. Chaperones should not talk to students while they are at attention unless given permission by a staff member. Chaperones should wear band shirts, jackets or school colors for easy identification and to show school spirit. Below are some specific responsibilities relating to different band events.

### **Parades**

Make sure all water bottles are filled with ice and water and loaded. Help make sure that all necessary equipment is loaded, including instruments, banner, flags, etc. Make a list of the students on each bus for long trips, or take a head count for short trips. Before departing, ask students to make a mental check that all necessary equipment has been loaded. Double check that all members are present before departing. Upon arrival, help get students into uniform and off the busses. Help unload equipment, if necessary. **Water bottles are not to be used during the parade route, only immediately before or after the parade.** Try to stay out of the way of the band and be as inconspicuous as possible. If it is a judged parade, stay behind the band in the reviewing area. After performing, help load and make sure all members are on the busses before departing.

### **Football Games**

Make sure that beverage coolers are loaded. Help make sure that all necessary equipment is loaded, including instruments, flags, plumes, etc. Make a list of the students on each bus for long trips, or take a head count for short trips. Before departing, ask students to make a mental check that all necessary equipment has been loaded. Double check that all members are present before departing. **For home games, students will meet at ECCHS and depart by school bus to Dutch Country Stadium.** Please make sure you are wearing something that you can put your uniform over. For away games, students will dress upon arrival at the school, unless requested otherwise. Upon arrival, help get students off the busses and unload equipment. Upon arrival, help get students into uniform and off the busses. Students will assemble at equipment trailer and line up to march into stadium. Students will sit by sections in the bleachers. Non-band students are not allowed to sit with the band unless given permission by the director. Keep students in the stands and in sections at all times. Allow only one student from each section to leave for the restroom at a time. Section leaders and Drum Majors will help with this task. Once the band moves to warm-up for half-time, help move the students to the warm-up area and make sure they are fully dressed in uniforms. After performance, if students are allowed by the director to have free time chaperones should help make sure everyone is seated by the designated time. This may entail "collecting" band members from the restrooms. After the game, please check the stands for any garbage or forgotten items and help make sure everything is loaded on the trailer and busses. Make sure everyone is present before departing.

## **Competitions**

Make sure that beverage coolers are loaded. Help make sure that all necessary equipment is loaded, including instruments, flags, plumes, etc. Make a list of the students on each bus for long trips, or take a head count for short trips. Before departing, ask students to make a mental check that all necessary equipment has been loaded. Double check that all members are present before departing. Upon arrival, help get students dressed and off the busses. Help unload equipment as necessary. Students will assemble at equipment trailer and line up to march to warm-up areas. Once students are warming-up, only one or two chaperones are needed to stay with the band. Others may enter and watch the show. Chaperones staying with the band should stay a reasonable distance away and not distract the band. Chaperones should not talk to students while they are at attention unless given permission by a staff member. After performance, follow the band back to the trailer and help load. The band will then either be dismissed or march back to the stadium. At least two chaperones should stay in our designated back-bleacher section and help keep our band members seated there quietly during the remainder of the competition. Please be "visible" in case anyone needs assistance. All chaperones are requested to meet in the back bleacher section when awards are announced to help keep order and as a show of support. We will then either dismiss or march back to the busses. Please check the stands for any garbage or forgotten items and help make sure everything is loaded on the trailer and busses. Check that all band members are present on the busses. The band director and staff will speak to the members about their show before we depart.

### **1.5. Grievances**

It is understood that parents may occasionally have a difference of opinion with the director or staff. Please understand that those who are entrusted to work with the band members have spent a great deal of time in developing their skills and should be treated as professionals. Likewise, it is expected that they have the students' best interests at heart in any actions they take. Please bring any issues up to the director at the earliest opportunity. If necessary, a meeting with the appropriate school officials can be arranged. The director is the only person who can "fix" any problems, but cannot do so unless made aware of them. The music booster officers are not expected to mediate any grievances and have no authority to make any decisions regarding complaints.

### **1.6. Music Dealers**

The following are some recommended music dealers that do business with the Music Department. Feel free to contact them for any musical needs. **Please always consult your director if you have any questions on instruments and before any major purchases.** We often have access to competitive prices from a number of music dealers that may not be available to the general public.

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| Fritz Organs and Pianos | 834-2764 (rentals, general needs)                    |
| Robert M. Sides         | 1-800-326-9450 (repairs and general needs)           |
| Wrights Music Shed      | 1-814-368-5399 (general needs)                       |
| Foote Stompin' Drums    | 834-1016 (drum sticks, mallets and percussion needs) |
| Interstate Music        | 1-800-982-2263 (instruments and accessories)         |
| Volkweins               | 1-800-553-6124 (printed music)                       |

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| NEMC                   | 1-800-526-4593 (discounted instruments)               |
| Woodwind and Brasswind | 1-800-348-5003 (instruments and accessories)          |
| Taylor Music           | 1-800-USA-BAND (discounted and close-out instruments) |

## 2. Expectations

### 2.1. General Expectations

Students should:

- Insist on excellence in your every action
- Keep a positive attitude and remain open to new ideas
- Maintain at least "minimum participation" in your area (see section 2.2 below)
- Attend rehearsals, performances and lessons as required
- **Participate in all fundraising activities, and working a minimum of two Bingo's each year (as required to participate in a Sport).**
- Adhere to all policies and procedures as outlined in this manual

Parents should:

- Support and encourage your child's musical growth
- Aid in enforcing the policies outlined in this manual
- Insist on regular practice at home
- Help with Bingo's (fourth Friday of each month) a few times a year
- Help with other events (chaperoning, Fruit Sales, Festival Booths, fundraising, etc.) as needed
- Attend band concerts and events to show your support for the program
- Support the policies and decisions of the band director and music staff
- Attend Music Booster meetings as often as possible to help guide the direction of the program and offer your input
- Ensure your child's attendance at band events by arranging transportation- other band members are willing to help as long as adequate notice is given

Instructors will:

- Have the best interests of the band at heart in every decision
- Be fair and impartial when selecting soloists, section leaders and special positions
- Challenge you to improve at every step of your journey- this is the only way to achieve excellence
- Insist on long term growth and improvement rather than instant gratification or quick fixes
- Maintain a positive atmosphere conducive to learning
- Work to earn your respect and deserve to be treated appropriately

### 2.2. Minimum Participation

The ECCHS Band program is focused on the musical education of its members. The primary goal is not the entertainment, but the education of the student. This cannot be

accomplished by allowing the student to choose his or her favorite activities any more than the classroom teacher lets the student choose his or her own assignments. There is a system of opportunities available in the band program that allows for a variety of balanced experiences while suiting the musical goals of the program. **To best meet these goals there is a minimum level to which all members are expected to participate before they can participate in other activities in the department. Failure to meet these requirements can prevent you from participating in certain ensembles, so read them carefully.**

**Musicians:** The focus of any band program should be a concert band with sufficient ability and instrumentation to perform musical works of lasting quality and significance. Therefore, the concert band program must be the center of the band program. All instrumentalists are expected to be members of this ensemble if they are to participate in any other band activity. Ideally, all members will participate year-round in marching band as well as concert band. Some students may not be able to participate in marching band due to schedule conflicts. If this is the case, it is required that these students act as runners for a few events. This will serve to make sure that students understand the important role that marching band plays in the music department, as well as help the marching band program by providing valuable assistance during our performances. More information will be given to these students in the fall once the schedule is finalized. If a student is unable to act as a runner, an alternate solution will be arranged. **Students must still complete all necessary lessons.** Students not participating in marching band will not be allowed represent ECCHS at district band. Students participating in marching band will be given first preference for IU9 Band Festivals, Jazz Band and for the use of school instruments.

**Guard:** Guard members are required to be members of the marching band. Indoor guard is optional, but encouraged to maintain skills during the off-season. Musicians may participate in indoor guard provided they maintain active participation in the concert band. Musicians should also be attentive to their responsibilities as members of the concert band and attend all required lessons. Students who do not keep their responsibilities will not be allowed to participate in the indoor guard. If a new student joins indoor guard after the completion of the marching band season, they are required to participate in marching band for the following season.

### **2.3. Required Purchases**

- Each Marching Band student is expected to purchase marching band shoes and gloves. This is done through the director.
- Marching Band musicians are expected to purchase gauntlets for their uniforms.
- A marching band T-shirt will be designed and ordered each year. Marching Band students will pay for these from their accounts.
- Special uniform parts may be used for the marching band or guard members. Those respective sections will pay for these after discussion with the appropriate parties.
- Musicians should own the necessary mutes, reeds, oils and cleaning supplies for their instruments. Please see your director or a music dealer if you need supplies.

- Musicians are expected to buy their own instruments, with the exception of percussion, low woodwinds and harmony brass. These students are encouraged to look into the purchase of their own instruments as well. All students are expected to make every attempt to acquire intermediate or advanced level instruments as soon as possible, as these will make the mastery of your instrument much easier.
- Musicians should own a flip folder and lyre for your instrument.

## **2.4. Proper Dress**

### **Marching Band**

- All members are expected to wear a uniform shirt or a plain maroon or white T-shirt under their uniform tops so the tops can be removed in warm weather. Also, the collar area can be seen under the uniforms.
- Thermal underwear is recommended under the uniforms in cold weather. **Jeans are not allowed** under uniform pants as they inhibit movement.
- **Only ECCHS letter jackets, ECCHS Band Jackets, or ECCHS Band raincoats are permitted to be worn in the stands over the uniforms.**
- Please wear thick socks with your marching shoes so that you don't get blisters.
- For rehearsals and camps, please plan on sunscreen, sunglasses and hats to protect you from the sun.

### **Concert Band**

Concert attire is considered semi-formal, i.e. dresses for ladies, dress shirt, tie and dress slacks (coats encouraged) for men. In the event that other dress is required for concerts, the director will inform you.

### **Festivals**

Please respect the dress code of the host school. Do not wear anything that could be considered offensive or that would not be allowed by your own school. A dress code is usually included in your information from the host director. Please ask before leaving if you have any questions.

## **2.5. Individual Preparation**

Group achievement can only come from individual achievement. We cannot have a quality band without quality musicians. A basic rule that should be observed is: "If you can't play it in rehearsal, practice it on your own time." The time and efforts of the group cannot be wasted by individual mistakes that can be remedied by a bit of individual practice. Your personal practice time should be determined by your goals as a musician, your director's suggestions, and your problem spots in your music. All students should maintain practice records. Lessons must be completed. A rotating in-school lesson schedule on Fridays is set for all 9-12 grade members. Using this system, no member should have to miss the same class more than once or twice each quarter. If students have a study hall they may miss that class instead. Also, before or after school lessons are available upon request for those that cannot miss classes.

## **2.6. Attendance Policies**

An excused absence is defined as one that has been discussed with the director well in advance of a band event. In the event of an emergency, please contact your director as soon as possible. Excused absences should only be due to family emergency, once-in-a-



lifetime opportunities and illness. Any other events will be cleared on a case-by-case basis. Absences should not be for events that can be rescheduled (hair appointments, etc.) or due to procrastination (papers due the next day, tests to study for, etc.). It is expected that you will be attendance for all performances, and especially for competitive events. We only have a limited number of judged performances. Don't jeopardize our band's placement by a careless absence. For all events, attendance counts. Below are attendance policies for the band program.

- The bottom line is whether you are there or not there. All absences are expected to be excused.
- Attendance will be taken and a report generated periodically showing the percentage of rehearsals missed.
- All members are expected to have at least 75% attendance. Once your attendance falls below 50% you may be removed from the program.

**Sports:** For those participating in sports, we make every effort to be non-exclusive. We allow members to participate in any other activity so long as minimum attendance is maintained. Some allowances can be made for those with extreme schedule conflicts. Do not expect your band director to be more flexible than your coach would be. Ideally you should be splitting your time between both activities when there is a conflict.

**Employment:** It is understood that students have financial needs, but care should be taken to ensure that band events are not missed for band events that are merely for extra spending money. Please think of what you will remember in ten years- the money that you earned on a Saturday while working, of performing a great show with your band?

- A small number of work-related excuses can be allowed with advance notice
- Please take care to request all events off in advance
- A letter from the band director can be requested to help you secure the necessary time off of work

## ***2.7. Financial Arrangements***

### **Procedure for making payments to the band:**

- Trips, camps or fundraising payments should be made by mail directly to the treasurer.
- Do not make payments to the director unless specifically requested.
- All payments should be made via **ONE** check. Please collect all monies, deposit them in your account and write the boosters a check for the full amount. No cash will be accepted. Please add the purpose of the payment in the memo line of the check.
- Payments are expected due within one week of the announced date.

### **Student Accounts:**

- Fund raising proceeds will be accumulated in the student's individual account.
- These funds are to be used for the purchase of music, instrument repair, supplies and trips.
- Any funds left in the student's account will be turned over to the general account.
- Students who quit before graduation will forfeit any funds in their account.
- At no time should there be a negative balance in your account. If this situation is not remedied you can removed from the program.

## **3. Procedures and Regulations**

### **3.1. Equipment**

- There will be a \$30 fee collected from each band member using school equipment to ensure its proper care and maintenance. This fee will be collected from all marching percussionists, wind players using a school instrument, and guard members. Students using more than one instrument will only have to pay one fee. Students using a school instrument on a short-term or trial basis at the discretion of the director will not have to pay a fee.
- School instruments and equipment should be cared for as you would you own. Clean, polish and maintain them regularly and report any damage to your director as soon as it is noticed. Damage due to negligence will be repaired at the expense of the student.
- Dry equipment thoroughly after exposed to rain water.
- Keep like instruments/ equipment together when on break to avoid loss or damage.
- Avoid keeping extraneous items in cases to prevent damage.
- All instruments should be clearly tagged with your name.
- The director reserves the right to charge a replacement fee for lost music to your account.

### **3.2. Uniforms**

Uniforms are the single biggest investment that the band program maintains. The first impression that is made by the band is visual. Wearing and maintaining your uniform is an important responsibility for all band members. Below are regulations for uniforms.

- Uniforms should be worn properly at all times- no backwards hats, etc.
- Uniform t-shirts should be worn under the tops- maroon or white only
- Half-uniform refers to wearing your band shirt and your bibber pants, shoes and socks. Your hat and top will be carried with you. This term will be used as an instruction for the group to partially dress.
- Only shorts, sweats or thermal underwear under the pants- nothing that can hinder movement  
Do not sit on anything that could stain or rip your pants.
- Never sit on the ground. Check all surfaces before sitting.
- Uniforms should be hung properly when not being worn. Never let anything lie on the ground or the bus floor.
- Clean and polish shoes before performances. Black liquid polish works well and is inexpensive.
- Clean gauntlets with mild soap and water or armor-all.
- Know all your uniform numbers so you can identify your uniform.
- Socks should be thick and of the appropriate color.
- Section leaders will give a uniform inspection once we are dressed. They should keep extra socks, gloves, etc. on hand for emergencies.
- Hats should be kept well protected. Never set them on their white tops. If removed when in warm-ups, place them carefully with the "E" to the inside of the arc.
- No visible jewelry while in uniform. This includes watches and earrings.
- Make-up should be conservative. Clear nail polish only.

- Hair should be done in a uniform manner. Hair should be put up in hats for uniformity. This may require that you get a larger hat than expected. Try it in advance of performances.
- Check and double check to make sure you have all uniform parts. You cannot perform unless you are in uniform.
- **Uniforms will be collected and stored in the Band Room after every performance.**

### **3.2. Rehearsals**

- Rehearsal time is very valuable. Please be on time (5-10 minutes before scheduled start time) and expect to begin on time. Have instruments and equipment ready in advance.
- Secure necessary music in advance. Let the director or student leaders know if you need music.
- If the director is delayed at the beginning of rehearsal, student leaders are expected to begin warm-ups. Please give them your respect.
- Eating or drinking is not allowed during rehearsals, with the exception of water.
- During rehearsal breaks, you should be resting, not playing games and running about.
- Items in the band office, such as the phone, stereo and computer should only be used with permission.

### **3.3. Travel**

Travel is an important part of your band experience. Please observe the following when travelling with the band:

- **All students are to travel with the band on the busses.**
- **If you are not returning via the band busses, please make sure that you have given the director a note prior to the performance. The note must be signed by your parents, please informed your seat partner you will not be returning with the band. Please also remind the chaperones before departing.**
- Please make sure you have everything you need before departing. Don't be afraid to ask other band members, chaperones, or staff if you are not sure.
- Make sure you have meal money if we are eating on the way.
- Chaperones are asked to help keep order while on trips and make sure band members are where they need to be. They are not expected to act as police officers. Please respect their requests and help make their jobs easier. Discipline issues will be dealt with by the director.
- While on trips you fall under the disciplinary guidelines of the school. Please be respectful in terms of language, interactions with fellow students and adults, and your actions in general. No pushing, hitting or "horseplay" is acceptable.
- Keep the busses clean. Your trash is your responsibility.
- Music should be kept at a reasonable volume. Please respect those around you and turn it down if they ask you to. Headphones are suggested.
- Keep hands, heads and everything else in the bus and out of the windows. No shouting out the windows.

### 3.4. Marching Band Performances

- Please honor instructions as to whether we will dress before we leave or upon arrival. This will help the band move more swiftly.
- In general, stay as a group at all times. Move as a group; perform as a group. Do not wander off unless given express permission.
- We will march to warm up-areas. Expect to do this always.
  - ✓ For football games please observe the following:
  - ✓ Sit in sections in assigned areas in the stands this will make us look and sound better.
  - ✓ Guard should expect to cheer and dance during pep songs to add to the atmosphere of the game.
  - ✓ Never play randomly- expect to play as a group often.
  - ✓ No one is permitted to sit in the band section without permission except for members.
  - ✓ Do not leave the stands without permission from the director or chaperones. Please only have one person from each section at the rest room at a time for instrumental balance.
  - ✓ At away games, please take another band member or chaperone to the rest room.
  - ✓ No food while in uniform without permission. **BE VERY CAUTIOUS!**
  - ✓ Silence is expected during the opposing school's alma mater and national anthem.
  - ✓ Expect to show plenty of school spirit and enthusiasm.
  - ✓ **When the weather becomes cold, you may wear your band jacket or the band raincoat and warm gloves for the stands. Anything you wear must be school colored so it doesn't clash with the uniforms.**
  - ✓ **The band when not on the field for half-time will remain in the stands at all times.** The only beverages will be those provided by the band parents. Please represent the band well and follow all uniform rules. This may be revoked if members are late to return or misbehave.
- For competitions, please observe the following:
  - ✓ Competitions are very time-sensitive and require the utmost concentration and cooperation.  
Move quickly and as a group.
  - ✓ Once we arrive, stay on the busses and await instructions.
  - ✓ During warm-ups, concentrate and do not talk. Focus and prepare for your performance.
  - ✓ After we perform, stay with the band for a "debriefing" from the director. You will then be allowed to change.
  - ✓ We will then return to the stadium for the remainder of the show. Please stay in groups. Younger members should expect to stay with chaperones.
  - ✓ Please congregate in our marked area on the back bleachers. All members are expected to be with us for awards. Please be respectful of those still performing and keep noise to a minimum.  
Stay in that area until dismissed as a group to return to the busses.

- ✓ Be aware that your behavior is a direct reflection of both your band and your school. Please exercise good judgement.

## 4. Opportunities

### 4.1. *Ensembles*

The band program has a number of separate, yet inter-connected groups in which members can participate. Below is information on each. More detailed information on each can be found elsewhere in this manual.

#### **Concert Band**

- Concert band is made up of all **7-12** grade instrumental music students. All musicians are required to participate in Concert Band in order to participate in any other musical ensemble. 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders of sufficient skill that are interested may perform as well, but are expected to participate in the Middle School program as well.
- Concert Band is the center of the band program. All musical activity should flow from this group. It is here that the true musical growth of the program is achieved.
- Concert Band performs works of lasting quality and musical importance. A special focus is placed on works of grade 4 level and above.
- Concert Band can be taken as an academic class at ECC meeting first period. Students in this class do not have to attend after-school rehearsals until close to the concert date. **All members are expected to try to schedule this class.**
- Regular Tuesday/ Thursday rehearsals are also held after marching band season ends.
- Students will be assigned to parts based on auditions and ability. Even instrumentation and balance require strong players on 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> parts in all sections.
- All concert band students are required to attend all required lessons.

#### **Marching Band**

- Marching Band performs at festivals, parades and football games during the summer and fall months.
- Marching Band is made up of 8-12 grade musicians and guard members, as well as select 7<sup>th</sup> grade musicians as needed.
- Instrumentation may differ from the concert band by necessity. You are expected to keep up on your major (concert band) instrument.

#### **Jazz Band**

- Jazz Band is a select group of musicians who are chosen by audition from the concert band membership.
- You must be an active member of the concert band to participate. If you do not have good attendance you can be dropped.
- Generally the band will be only 9 through 12 grade, but younger students will be accepted as needed.
- Jazz Band will begin after the conclusion of the Marching Band season.

- Instrumentation may differ from the concert band by necessity. You are expected to keep up on your major instrument.

#### **Indoor Guard**

- The indoor guard is made up of **marching band members** who wish to gain additional experience during the winter and spring months.
- Competitive shows are performed on a gymnasium rather than a football field to recorded music.
- They travel to competitions at area schools.

#### **4.2. Letter Awards**

Letters are given to students as a reward for progress and commitment to the program. The guidelines are designed so that as long as a student fulfills his or her basic expectations he or she should letter for the year. As letters are a product of the high school community, seasons completed before 9th grade do not count. The following guidelines are for the awarding of letters, and the director reserves the ability to award a letter in the event of unusual or extenuating circumstances. If a student does not attend the awards banquet or assembly, he or she is responsible for claiming any letters or awards won from the director.

#### **Band Letter Criteria:**

Letters will be awarded based on two seasons, Marching Band and Concert Band.

- After two satisfactory seasons you will receive a chenille Band letter.
- After four satisfactory seasons you will receive a letter jacket
- After six seasons you will receive a chenille graduation year
- After eight seasons you will receive a recognition pin.

A satisfactory season includes acceptable rehearsal attendance (no more than 25% of rehearsals missed) and attendance at all major concerts and performances. All necessary lessons must be completed as well.

#### **Guard Letter Requirements:**

- Letters will be awarded based on two possible seasons, Marching Band and Indoor Guard.
- After two satisfactory seasons you will receive a chenille Guard letter.
- After four satisfactory seasons you will receive a letter jacket
- After six seasons you will receive a chenille graduation year
- After eight seasons you will receive a recognition pin.

#### **Jazz Band Letter Requirements:**

- After two seasons of Jazz Band enrollment, you will receive a Jazz Letter
- For each successive year you will receive a pin

#### **4.3. Honors Festivals**

There are a number of Music Festivals for which students can apply. Below is information on each. Be sure to ask your director for more information if you are interested. **For the**

**2013-2014 School Year: Students are responsible for the registration fees for District and IU9 Festivals.** Fees range from \$20 to \$70, depending on the festival.

- **District Band:** Students will be selected for District Band according to a random draw from a director's preference list. This list is developed according to student's ability, work ethic and the section size. Generally our school's quota is three students. This is open to grades 10-12.
- **Region Band:** Students who place in the top half of their sections at District Band are selected for Region Band.
- **All-State Band:** Students who are the top one or two seats in their section or part are usually selected for All-State Band. This is a complicated selection process based on auditions at Region Band. This is the highest level to which a student can progress in PMEA festivals.
- **All-Eastern Band:** Students who qualify for all-state band as an underclassman in an even year may qualify for the MENC All-Eastern band in the following spring. In some cases, students who make a high chair at a region event may qualify.
- **IU #9 Band:** There are two IU #9 Band festivals held during the year. Junior IU #9 is held in early April and is made up of students in grades 7-9. Senior IU #9 is held in November and is made up of students in grades 10-12. Students are selected from a director's preference list. There are solo auditions at IU #9 band for talented soloists to be spotlighted.
- **IUP Honors Band:** Students can audition for this Honors Band held at IUP in December. You need to prepare a solo from a selected list and play it for an audition committee at IUP in early November. There is no age limit for this festival.
- **District Jazz:** Students must prepare an audition from a selection announced in early September. Auditions take place in November. This is open to students in grades 10-12.
- **All-State Jazz:** Students are selected for this festival from tapes submitted in December or January. Please see your director for more information.

#### **4.4. Music Camps**

There are a number of music camps held each summer at Colleges and Universities in the area. These camps are highly recommended for students who wish to peruse music as a career. Information is posted outside the band office as it is received. Listed below are a few in which our members have participated in the past.

- PSU Summer Music Camp <http://www.outreach.psu.edu/C&I/musiccamps/>
- Mansfield University Summer Music Camp 1-800-661-3640
- Fred J. Miller Clinics (various locations) 1-800-444-3524

Please fill out and return this form after reading the handbook. It is required that all students have this form on file in the band office.

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Please mark that you have read the following sections.

- 1. Introduction \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. Expectations \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. Procedures and Regulations \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. Opportunities \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you!