



**Cabell Midland High School**

**Band Department**

**2014-2015 Handbook**

**Timothy R. James, Director  
304-743-7426**

**CABELL MIDLAND HIGH SCHOOL**  
**MARCHING BAND**  
**CONCERT BAND**  
**WIND ENSEMBLE-ADVANCED**  
**JAZZ BAND**

**Course Syllabus**

**ATTENDANCE:**

All school policies regarding attendance will be followed. You must be in your seat by the tardy bell or a “tardy” will be recorded. Attendance is required for the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> mod marching band class and any scheduled after school (after 8<sup>th</sup> mod) rehearsals. You are expected to participate in every rehearsal and performance. This includes the two and ½ weeks of band camp in July and August. It is important to remember that all marching band members are “banking” class credit time by their attendance to the two and 1/2 weeks of July and August band camp. This enables them to receive a full block of credit for the semester.

Eighth mod ends at 4:15. After school rehearsal continue until 5:00 p.m. Therefore, you must schedule appointments and jobs around this schedule. Beginning November 5<sup>th</sup>, the marching band rehearsals will end at 3:05 p.m. After school tutoring, private lessons, sectionals and All-State workshops will begin at this time. Jazz band members should expect after-school rehearsal periodically.

**GRADING/EXPECTATIONS:**

Your grade is determined on a percentage scale based on the total number of points possible. Performance classes involve required rehearsals and performances outside the normal school day which count substantially on your grade.

1. Daily points will be earned for participating by having your instrument, pencil, music and supplies. Attendance is required for the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> mod marching band class and after-school rehearsal. Daily attendance will be taken in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> mods and absences reported as in any other class.
2. Exhibiting proper rehearsal and performance behavior will be included in your evaluation. There can be no public displaces of affection. Ban language will not be tolerated.
3. Points will be awarded for playing tests, written exams, rehearsal, performance and meeting deadlines.
4. Points will be awarded for participating in after-school rehearsal. These are considered extensions of your class work. Dance team/flag corps members are expected to perform in all the of the group’s activities. A band member who does not wish to remain in band 2<sup>nd</sup> semester will forfeit eligibility for the band trip and any potential awards.
5. Points will be awarded for participating in any outside school performance s and school performances. Students are expected to be present as part of their basic course work.
6. Extra credit points will be awarded for participation in activities such as All-County Band auditions, All-State Band auditions and School Musical auditions. etc.
7. Any time there is a performance in uniform, students will go through an inspection process with points awarded for various criteria. Inspection points contribute a major

portion of the performance points. Students are responsible for cleaning their own shoes, wearing clean white socks, gloves, and white undergarments, and keeping **white pants clean and pressed.**

8. Students are to remain in uniform at any public performance. Keep your jacket on and zipped unless instructed by a director to remove it. You must wear the appropriate t-shirt and you must keep your suspenders on your shoulders.
9. Students must travel to and from all band events with the band. Students will not be released to ride home with anyone unless written permission has been given by the principal, Mr. David Tackett. This is normally granted only in extreme situations.
10. Dance team members will be governed under the same rules and regulations as the band. Students selected for the dance team/flag corps are expected to participate for the full school year.

### **ABSENCES:**

An excused absence from any band activity must be approved in advance by Mr. James. Excused absences will be granted only in the case of serious personal illness, death in family, or family emergency. Documentation to verify this must be submitted. Makeup work will be given for an excused absence, but it is the student's responsibility to request it! It is also the student's responsibility to schedule non-emergency appointments and work schedules around your required band activities. Students who have excessive attendance problems will be removed from the contest show. An unexcused absence from a rehearsal or performance will be made-up by an individual performance of the missed work for a band director. Your performance will be graded. There will be no exceptions to the attendance requirement.

### **COURSE CONTENT:**

All band courses involve active student participation in daily warm-ups, rehearsals, and concerts. Various styles and types of music will be studied. Students may be asked to perform individually as well as within the ensemble group. Each student will be evaluated based on his/her individual progress. Basic music theory concepts will be presented. Students will also study basic music signs and terms. Correct playing techniques for jazz or concert will be presented. Jazz band students will learn blue scales and the basic of improvisation. Student progress will culminate in a variety of performance opportunities.

### **PERFORMANCE READINESS:**

It is to be understood that any band or dance team member who cannot execute marching band routines at a proficient performance level will not perform on the field with the group until such level is reached. A student who is unsure of the marching routines presents a clear danger to himself/herself and to those marching nearby. The band director's decision in this matter will be final. The student will still attend the activity in uniform and act as an assistant. The student will be included in all other activities at the game, concert or band contest. Grades will not be affected as long as the student continues to make an effort to improve. Performance readiness requirement may also be applied to Jazz Band and Concert Band performances if the group is preparing for an adjudicated event in which the student is not prepared to perform at a mastery level.

## **AWARDS AND SPECIAL RECOGNITION:**

To earn a special band award you must meet the following requirements:

**1<sup>st</sup> Year Band Medal:** 1<sup>st</sup> full year in band. Must take both marching & concert band classes.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Year -4<sup>th</sup> Year Band Medals & Instrument Pin:** given each full year of participation in both marching & concert bands.

**Jazz Award Pin:** given each full semester of participation in the Jazz Band class.

**Senior Trophy:** given for a senior's full year participation in both marching & concert band classes. There is no exception to this requirement. Seniors who complete only one semester of band are not eligible for this award.

Semester Award: certificates will be awarded to all students who complete only one semester.

***\*Special awards are given for members of All-State, All-Area, Honor Bands & All-County Bands.***

## **GRADUATION CORDS**

Marching Band/Wind Ensemble, Music Theory and Dance Team seniors are eligible for the cord if they have successfully completed both semesters of their senior year.

ALL AWARDS ARE TRADITIONALLY PRESENTED AT THE SPRING BAND AWARDS BANQUET IN MAY AND ARE BASED ON A STUDENT'S PARTICIPATION FOR THE FULL ACADEMIC YEAR.

## **SCHOOL-OWNED INSTRUMENT AND UNIFORMS:**

Students are responsible for and maintaining in good order any and all instruments and/or band uniforms and accessories issued to them. There must be a notarized loan form on file if you are using a school-owned instrument. Students will be held liable for damage or loss of these items. After each performance, you must return your uniform properly hung to the uniform room and your instrument to your locker. Your pants, gloves and shoes must always be kept clean and white. You are required to take your band pants home to be washed after every performance.

## **LEADERSHIP POSITIONS:**

Candidates for positions such as drum major, band captains and dance team captains are selected from students who are active participants in full-year band or jazz band class. These selections are determined by Mr. James and adult staff. The decisions are final; Students who violate basic band rules will be removed from their positions.

## **BAND FEES/TRIP FINANCES:**

No student will be denied participation in any facet of the band program due to financial problems. For the 2014 season, the Band Booster organization requests a **Band Fee of \$162 per member (NO multi-student/family discount)**. \$150 of this fee is to offset the enormous cost of Band Camp food for meals/snacks during camp, instruction, band t-shirts, school-owned instruments and maintenance and costs for music and drill for the

show. The remaining \$12 is to cover the cost of your student's admission to Drums Across the Tri-State on Monday, July 28<sup>th</sup> at Laidley Field in Charleston. This is an opportunity for the students to see Drum and Bugle Corps in action, to give them an idea of what competitions will look like on a larger scale, as well as to inspire them before we begin our season.

If the Band Fee presents an undue burden to the student, small payments may be arranged confidentially with Mr. James, or in the case of financial hardship, a student may request the fee be waived. Fund-raising opportunities will be made available as well.

If and/or when Mr. James decides to plan a spring band trip, students will have the opportunity to participate in a multitude of fund-raising activities to accumulate credit toward the cost of the trip. Fundraisers will begin in August with the exception of car washes and /or bake sales that will start in April and continue throughout the summer. Students are urged to participate in each one. For parents who prefer their child does not fund raise, cash payments based on the group payment schedule can be made.

### **BAND TRIP ELIGIBILITY**

1. Student eligibility includes:
  - Student being in good standing in school and band;
  - No debts to school or band;
  - Band grade average of C or better;
  - No suspensions;
  - No major discipline problems; and
  - No unexcused absences from performances and rehearsals.
  
2. Student's requirements include;
  - Raising the trip cost through fund-raising or cash payments;
  - Must be a member of the marching and concert band the entire school year and meeting all deadlines and requirements of the notarized trip contract.

Students and adults who violate the trip contract by not making required payments on time will be removed from the trip list. No refunds will be given to any student or adult who withdraws from the trip for any reason, loses trip eligibility or violates the contract. Bad checks submitted for any payments will result in immediate cancellation of the student or adult's trip reservation.

## **MUSIC DEPARTMENT RULES:**

1. There will be no food or drinks brought in to any area of the music department at any time. You will be permitted to have bottled water.
2. Keep the area free of trash by using proper receptacles.
3. Keep your instrument in a locker with the case latched. Never leave your instrument out on the floor. Make sure your name is on the outside of your case.
4. Keep money and other valuables with you. Do not leave them lying in the room. We are not responsible for any lost or stolen items.
5. If you wish to change clothes before marching rehearsal, you must do so between classes. You are still required to report to class on time.
6. You may use your band room locker for instrument and rehearsal shoes only. **\*BAND ROOM LOCKERS ARE NOT TO BE USED AS YOUR SCHOOL LOCKER!**
7. Observe rules of courtesy and respect. Treat others as you wish to be treated.
8. Be courteous while Mr. James or instructors are speaking, which means “no talking”.

# CABELL MIDLAND HIGH SCHOOL BAND

## STUDENT CONTRACT

### 2014-2015

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (student) acknowledge that I have received a complete copy of the CMHS Band Student Handbook 2014-2015.

I understand that all of the information presented including course requirements, attendance, grading, absences, course content, performance readiness, awards program, student responsibility for school-used uniforms and instruments, trip eligibility and music department rules.

I understand that my commitment to the Cabell Midland Marching Band, Concert Band and/or Jazz Band involves attendance and participation in all band activities. I understand that I am to schedule work and non-emergency appointments around my band schedule. I agree to meet all deadlines for assignments, paperwork and fundraisers. I understand that through fundraisers I am given the opportunity to raise the entire cost of the annual band trip.

I understand if I do not meet the requirements, I risk being suspended from a performance or trip. I will represent Cabell Midland High School in a positive, mature manner.

All expectations of band members have been explained to me.

I was given the opportunity to question anything I did not understand.

Student (Print Name) \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student (Signature) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent (Signature) \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*Signed contract is due to Mr. James no later than July 14, 2014.**