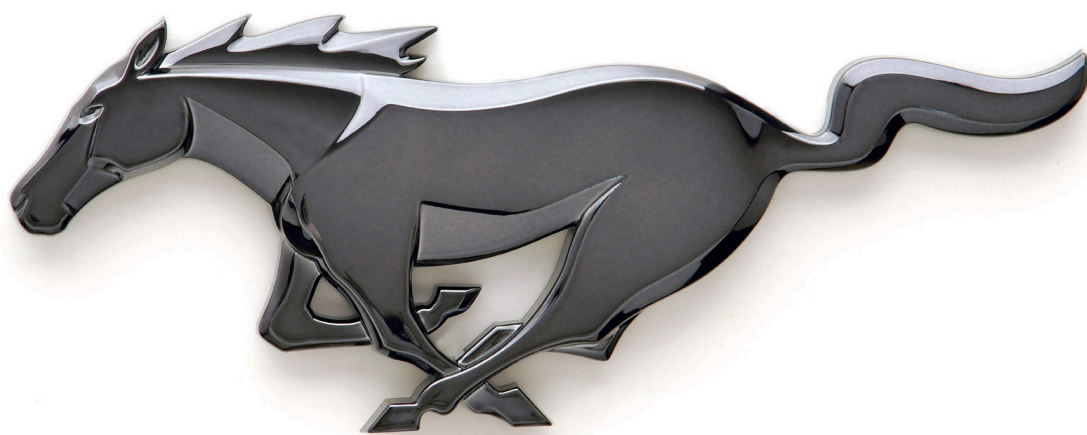
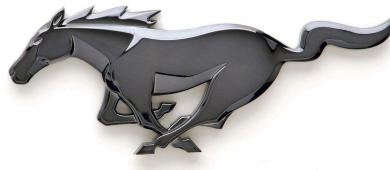


**GOVERNOR MIFFLIN
HIGH SCHOOL**



BAND GUIDE



Dear Students and Families,

Welcome! I am very excited about your commitment to the 2016-2017 Governor Mifflin High School Band Program. I am very fortunate to have you as part of this year's ensemble, and I look forward to embarking on a new season with you. The Governor Mifflin Band Program has established and *earned* a reputation of excellence; now is a fantastic time to be a part of a first-class organization that represents our school and community so wonderfully.

Every year, I develop several goals and objectives for ourselves in order to provide each student with a more holistic education, and the marching band staff and I work meeting those goals. One objective that is consistent from year to year is to provide extreme clarity and adequate preparation for each student. This student handbook is one way we can effectively communicate our collective objectives and clearly inform you of your responsibilities as a performer. Please read through this handbook and sign the last page indicating that you have read and understand the information provided in this handbook.

I am always available for a meeting if you have any questions or concerns regarding any aspect of the music program.

Congratulations and thank you for participating in this year's ensemble! I am really looking forward to working with you and I am confident that this will be an experience that you will never forget!

Musically,

Anthony B. Deininger

Mr. Anthony B. Deininger
Director of Bands
Governor Mifflin High School
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GOVERNOR MIFFLIN HIGH SCHOOL BAND GUIDE

Welcome to the 2016-2017 edition of the Governor Mifflin High School Band Program. We are looking forward to another successful season and are glad you can be a part of it. The band program has a long tradition of excellence, pride, and spirit. In order to continue and improve on these standards, a commitment is needed from everyone to achieve that goal.

The Governor Mifflin High School Band Program has many different ensembles to offer including:

Concert Band (All Instrumentalists grades 9-12)

Marching Band (All Instrumentalists grades 9-12 who are not Governor Mifflin Fall Sport Athletes plus color guard. Students in grade 8 may be asked to help fill out the instrumentation for marching band.)

Jazz Band (Instrumentalists from the band program in grades 9-12 – Auditions are typically in November)

Indoor Drumline (A percussion ensemble with marching drums. Open to any student in the band program grades 8-12. Auditions are typically in November/December)

Indoor Color Guard (A group for students interested in performing using dance, flags, rifles, sabers, and other implements. Open to students in grades 7-12 with the expectation of doing the outdoor color guard. An information meeting is typically held in November/December)

Small Ensemble as instrumentation allows (Varies from year to year – These groups are usually more student lead)

Honor Festivals (Students who are in good standing in the band program. Festivals include: Berks Junior/Senior County, PMEA District 10, PMEA Region V, PMEA All-State, NAFME All-Eastern, and NAFME All-National. Auditions for festivals occur at various times throughout the school year. More information will be distributed at the beginning of next school year. If interested, please see Mr. Deininger or Mrs. Griffin now to get the audition material to practice over the summer.)

The following is a list of responsibilities each student has:

Section I – EXPECTATIONS, RULES, AND REGULATIONS

1. EXPECTATIONS (All Groups)

As a member of the Governor Mifflin High School Band Program, students will be expected to:

- Bring a positive “can do” attitude everyday.
- Come ready to work your hardest everyday.
- Be on time.
- Attend all rehearsals and performances in their entirety.
- Bring all required materials to rehearsals and performances all the time.
- Follow all rules at all times.
- Listen to all staff members and adults the first time directions are given. This includes treating the bus drivers and chaperones with utmost respect - they are a vital part of what we do.
- Demonstrate proficiency on your instrument through playing tests.
- Give their utmost effort to prepare assigned music outside of class.
- Work very hard to achieve a high level of success!!
- Most importantly – HAVE FUN!!

2. **HANDBOOK:** Abide by all school rules and regulations as outlined in the student handbook.

3. **ALCOHOL/DRUGS:** No smoking, drinking of alcoholic beverages or the use of any drug or stimulant will be permitted by members of the Governor Mifflin Marching Band.

4. **TRANSPORTATION:** All Marching Band members are required to ride the school district’s buses to and from EVERY engagement; unless a specific written and signed notification is received from the parent/guardian at least one (1) day prior to the request. The director reserves the right to contact the parent/guardian to confirm the request. Failure to comply with this rule will result in a suspension from the marching program.

5. BUS TRAVEL REGULATIONS:

- a. No more than two people to a seat at any time.
- b. Once the bus is in motion – no standing, sitting or lying in the aisles.
- c. No glass containers are to be brought into the buses.
- d. No striking the tops/sides of the bus with hands, drum sticks, etc.
- e. Absolutely no abusive or offensive language inside or outside the bus at any time.

- f. Absolutely no playing inappropriate games that would lead to individuals being vulnerable or peer pressured into stating or doing something inappropriate. (Examples: “Truth or Dare” and “Never Have I Ever”)
- g. Buses are not always locked while games/competitions are in progress- you are responsible for any valuables left on the buses.

6. **ATTENDANCE for Pre Band Camp Summer Rehearsals:** Students are HIGHLY encouraged to attend the rehearsals during July and August, as these are the sole preparatory experiences offered prior to Band Camp. Students are expected to be in attendance if they are “in town”. Members are, however, expected to let the Director know ahead of time if they are unable to attend!
7. **ATTENDANCE Regulations/School Year/Band Camp and following weeks:** Attendance at all scheduled band rehearsals and performances, from band camp through the end of the season, is absolutely MANDATORY! Students will only be excused for illness, family emergency, or specific extenuating circumstances which have been discussed and approved by the Director. Any abuse of this rule will result in loss of “free time” privileges during the third quarter of football games and/or “benching” from Marching Band activities for a time to be determined by the Director and High School Administration. Members of the Marching Band who hold an official leadership position will be removed from said position at the discretion of the Director should they choose to not abide by this rule. We are all well aware the Fall schedule is heavy. However, this operational framework and understanding among all involved parties is very much necessary to produce an organization of which we can all be proud.

During school and after school rehearsals are part of the grade. You receive academic credit for marching band, which has rehearsals outside of the school day. The after school rehearsals and the performances are extensions of these classes, and therefore your attendance is required. Each student is allowed two (2) *excused* absences from rehearsals outside the school day. Only an absence from the school day and family emergencies will be acceptable excuses. In the event of an emergency, a note of explanation, signed by the parent or guardian, must be submitted to the director the following day. If your child is ill, we require a note at the next rehearsal from you. Work and homework will not be excuses of absences. Unexcused absences or lateness will not be tolerated and will result in a lower grade. Excessive absences or lateness may result in expulsion from the group.

8. **REQUESTS FOR ABSENCE FOR SPECIFIC EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES:** Students wishing to be excused from Marching Band Activities for “specific extenuating circumstances” must request these absences in writing at least four weeks prior to the absence. Email is an acceptable form of communication. This will afford the Director ample time to determine whether or not the absence should be excused. Any request for excusal (other than emergencies like illness or family emergency) that is not communicated at least four weeks in advance will be deemed unexcused and appropriate consequences will follow. (see number 6 and 7 above) Please, schedule college visits on the off Saturday or during the summer! Depending on your role with the group, there might not be the option of being absent for a specific extenuating circumstance.

All football games, parades, and competitions are confirmed, and concerts will be confirmed by the end of the current school year. Band members are expected to attend all performances. Anyone missing a performance unexcused will result in a zero for that performance. **All excuses must be cleared no less than 48 hours prior to the performance.** Spring performances include: Memorial Day Parade, concert and jazz performances. Any added performances will be given at least two (2) weeks in advance so students can plan accordingly, unless bad weather is to blame. In this case, notification will be given as soon as possible.

Family functions such as weddings and graduations must be cleared one month in advance. These events are scheduled well in advance, with ample time to notify the director. Please, hand in a note, signed by the parent or guardian, at least on month in advance.

Any student who is not prepared for the performance may be held from performing until the director sees that the student is ready.

9. **ABSENCE EXPLANATIONS:** ANY unexpected absence from Marching Band activities must be immediately followed by a written and signed explanation from the parent/guardian. Email is an acceptable form of communication. This includes absence from school due to illness. Absences from school without this communication will be unexcused.

Any student unable to participate in normal band activities such as “basics”, due to situations such as a “bad back”, “trick knee”, etc., must provide a signed excuse (parental) for the Director explaining the nature of the situation. Circumstances such as these, which demand more than two days, must be verified by a doctor’s excuse.

Injuries that might jeopardize both the pupil and the show production itself must be reported to the Director immediately; with the continued student participation being determined by the Director, Parents, the Pupil involved, the family Doctor, and the School Administration if necessary.

10. **RETURNING FROM EVENTS:** Upon returning from an activity or event, please remember to take care of all your equipment, including, but not limited to: uniform, instrument, props, flags, etc. Remember, the equipment is needed to complete all required tasks and expectations of the course. Failure to have the necessary items will affect your grade. After returning to Governor Mifflin High School and taking care of your equipment, please arrange a ride or a way home in a timely fashion. Please, keep in mind that the staff is not responsible for providing rides home. Mr. Deininger and the staff would also like to leave in a timely manner.

If you do not return to Governor Mifflin High School, please ask a responsible friend to take care of your belongings. If students plan to leave with a parent after any performance or activity that is not on Governor Mifflin School District property, a note is needed from the parents of the student. The note should be given to the band staff upon arriving for the activity that day. After the event, the student needs to see the chaperone **AND** staff member on their bus **WITH** their parent(s) before they are permitted to leave. No telephone conversations with parents will be an acceptable replacement of a note. The Governor Mifflin School District is responsible for students during this time, and if something would happen when they are not with the rest of band, the district could be held responsible. This rule will strictly be enforced.

SECTION II – STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES and CONDUCT

1. **UNIFORM RESPONSIBILITIES:** WE HAVE BRAND NEW UNIFORMS!! They were debuted in the fall of 2014. The District has graciously made a significant financial investment on our behalf. The arrival of new uniforms signified a regard to uniform wear, care, and storage. There is a separate uniform contract that presents all pertinent information concerning the wearing and caring of the uniform, including replacement/cleaning fees. The uniform contract will be available for download on my web page for a reminder throughout the season. This must be reviewed and signed before the student will be issued a uniform. Uniform distribution will be in August at times to be announced. Members will assume responsibility for the purchasing of footwear and gloves. This will be done with the Final Touch Accessories Company who will measure the members during the first week of August at Band Camp. We wear black shoes, which can be cleaned with a damp cloth. Shako cases will not be used as personal storage boxes in order to preserve the condition on the brand new shakos. Failure to abide by this rule will be handled individually and accordingly.

After uniforms are distributed, they become the responsibility of the student. Uniforms must be properly cared for, cleaned, and hung. Uniforms **cannot** be washed in laundry machines. Students will be required to wear appropriate clothing (gym shorts, t-shirts, long sleeve t-shirts, under armor, long johns, etc.) under the band uniform. Denim is never to be worn under the uniform because they cause the material in the pants to fray and wear out quicker.

Distributed uniform parts include: black pants, jacket, hanger, garment bag, hats/shako, shako case, and rain jacket. All uniform parts must be returned on the appropriate collection date, tentively scheduled February 2017. If damage is done and the uniform cannot be reissued, a charge will apply. **No jewelry that is not supplied by the marching band staff, may be worn at any time while in uniform**, including ear rings, facial jewelry, tattoos must be covered, etc. Hair that is shoulder length or longer must be worn up (off the collar) when in uniform. T-shirts, not tank tops or halter-tops, are to be worn under the band jacket. The shirt must have sleeves, even if it is short sleeves.

In the event that uniforms get wet, it must be aired out until dry. Do not put a damp or wet uniform into a garment bag and hang it in your closet. It must be dry **first**. (Also, do not put your uniform in the washer or dryer.)

When riding to and from any performance that having band pants on is not required, please wear shorts underneath what is being worn so when we change no one is seen in undergarments. T-shirts are expected to be worn under the band uniform. No one should need to take a shirt off to put his or her band jacket on.

2. **SCHOOL OWNED INSTRUMENTS:** If you are using a school-owned instrument it is your responsibility to care for it as you would your own! If your instrument is damaged or stolen, please report it immediately to the Director. The instrument will be provided to you in a decent playing condition. It is your responsibility to maintain the instrument. Repairs due to student neglect and/or carelessness will be at the student's expense.
3. **TARDINESS:** Tardiness will not be tolerated. Each member of the ensemble is expected to be "ready" for rehearsal at the designated time; e.g. arrive in time to warm up, unload all equipment, etc. Late arrivals will be strongly dealt with by the Director and are expected to be accompanied by a written and signed explanation from parents/guardians. Please be respectful of your peers and make plans to be prompt at all times.
4. **MEMORIZATION** – Each wind musician will receive show music at or before the first rehearsal. This music must be significantly practiced and memorized by band camp! The drill is taught by carefully applying marching techniques to the already-known music – and there is very little chance the member will experience success/enjoyment while attempting to learn both aspects simultaneously. All musicians will be tested periodically during band camp through the end of the season to help insure adequate performance proficiency. This will be handled very professionally and totally in line with the members' individual ability.

The same concept holds true for color guard members. Technical fundamentals and routines are taught during the scheduled rehearsal dates prior to band camp and at band camp. Members must assume personal responsibility in learning visual routines in a time line that compliments group progress.

5. **CLEAN-UP AND PIT HELP** – Each member is responsible for cleaning up their own trash – in the band room, in the hallways, in the bathrooms, on the practice field, and in the stands. This is becoming increasingly problematic. Loss of section and band privileges will result if this does not improve. Before and after each rehearsal, a wind section of the band will help the pit move their equipment to and from the field. Other sections will be responsible to help with any props and to do a final sweep of the area for trash or other neglected items. This will occur on a rotating basis. This rotation will be posted on the band room board for all students to check. Some jobs may take longer than others, so dismissal times may vary slightly from week to week for individual sections.
6. **STUDENT LEADERSHIP** - There is a drum major(s), a section leader for each instrument group, and color guard captain(s). These positions are selected through an interview process. The student leaders are all excellent role models and are afforded the utmost respect from staff and students. All student leaders will be observed, supervised, and evaluated by the instructional staff throughout the entire marching band season. The main purpose of this endeavor is to foster self-improvement, however the possibility does exist that students not taking the initiatives and responsibilities inherent in their position may be dismissed upon consultation with the Director, instructional staff, parents, and the pupil themselves. Students will not be permitted to continue in a leadership role, which has been established as detrimental to the marching band program.

Everyone is a leader, and is expected to take responsibility for their own punctuality, attendance, preparations, and their own actions. All students will be held to high standards musically and academically and are expected to represent the band program, music program, Governor Mifflin High School, the Governor Mifflin School District, and the Governor Mifflin Community with class, dignity, and respect.

7. **SENIOR MEMBERS:** Be it understood, senior members of the total ensemble are automatically considered an example and role model for younger members – regardless of whether or not they've attained an "official" leadership position. These individuals will be given their due respect by the Director and Staff, and are expected to be a positive force and facilitating role model toward the group's development throughout the entire season.
8. **CONDUCT – FOOTBALL GAMES:** Members are expected to conduct themselves professionally at all home and away football games, remembering that they are representatives of our school district. Any given irresponsible act or piece of verbiage would be considered by most people as emblematic of the entire school. A major portion of the responsibility of the Marching Band is to provide enthusiastic and consistent support for our football team. This will be accomplished via cheering and playing in the stands at designated times by the Director and Staff, and by working with the cheerleaders in a positive manner. We have begun improving with this. Let's keep it rolling and continue to improve.

9. **FOOTBALL GAME SEATING:** Seating at a football game will be done “by section”. No person who is not a member of the ensemble will be permitted to sit in the band area for more than a “quick visit”. This includes the classic move of the band member sitting on the perimeter of the band and the significant other sitting on the edge of the “civilian” section. Members have “off” for the 3rd quarter but must be ready to play by the beginning of the 4th quarter. “Soft Pretzel and soda in hand ” is considered not ready to play. There is no food or drinks permitted even after third quarter. Water will be supplied for all members in the stands and nothing else will be permitted. Those students who fail to return on time will forfeit their 3rd quarter privilege of time “off” for the next football game. At the final game of the football season, other consequences will be enacted.
10. **PARENT HELPERS/VOLUNTEERS:** Parents of band members graciously volunteer their time to help assure the smooth operation of the marching band program. Please, remember that these people are involved for your benefit and safety; therefore absolutely no improper behavior toward these people will be tolerated by the Director.
11. **PDA:** PDA while in uniform is strictly prohibited and anything other than holding hands or a quick hug while in “civies” is unacceptable. No one wants a front row seat to your clumsy attempts at romance.
12. **CONSEQUENCES:** If problems would occur, the following may be a result (but are not limited to): warning, meeting with the band staff, call home, grade deduction, detention, or expulsion from band. All discipline will be handled on a case-by-case basis. The goal of consequences is behavior modification. If it is an action or issue that needs to be dealt with by the school, then the necessary action will be taken for the school consequences and reported to the necessary people.

SECTION III – PHILOSOPHICAL ASPECTS OF THE BAND PROGRAM

1. **ENSEMBLE GOALS:** Large group and individual success cannot be realized without enthusiastic and practical music, routine, and drill rehearsal – which necessitate that people, learn to work together as a UNIT! The task of grouping together between 90 -95 students and accomplishing program improvement and personal growth is no small undertaking, so the words COOPERATION and MUTUAL RESPECT are of huge importance. No one individual or individual section of the total ensemble can ever be considered more important or even “better” than any other. A band in performance is a finely-tuned machine, and if even one of the cogs in the wheel of that machine is out of sync in terms of both performance and attitude, the machine will surely break down. The instructional staff considers everyone in the Organization a valuable asset in many ways; and any conduct or attitude discovered which is contrary to this belief will be dealt with appropriately.
2. **COMPETITIVE BELIEFS:** The Governor Mifflin High School has been a competitive unit for decades and has enjoyed a great deal of competitive success in its history. As we enter the current year we are filled with optimism that the judging community will again recognize our efforts and credit them appropriately. We must remember a few things however: no competitive circuit, the Tournament of Bands and Cavalcade of Bands included, is perfect. Scores, even though attached to an objective rubric, are still subjectively applied. Rankings, which place groups, many of which never perform on the same field, in a hierarchy, are close but not exact. We need to remember that we are in the activity to create art, support the school, build relationships, build character, and create positive memories, which will last a lifetime. We expect competitive excellence, but it is not the sole arbiter of being considered a success.

SECTION IV – SCHEDULE/FORMAT for REHEARSAL/PERFORMANCE

1. **SCHEDULE:** You now have the schedule in your possession. Please take it home immediately and review this with your parents/guardians. Please notify employers. Work or schoolwork, homework, or projects are not an excused absence.
2. **WEB PAGE:** Even though all information is verbally given at the end of every rehearsal, and hard copies of all documents are distributed, I have found that a website is a great resource for parents. The schedule, this handbook, and all pertinent information are available on the web page. Once band camp starts, I provide weekly schedule breakdowns of all performance and rehearsal specifics. These are constantly updated to be current and contain the latest

information. Please make a habit of visiting the webpage frequently for the most current information.
<http://mrdspage.weebly.com/> (Please bookmark this page.)

3. **FOOTBALL GAMES:** The marching band performs for spectators at all home and away football games. For the most part, we will perform pre-game (6:35) for home games, and half-time (8ish) for away games. These games take place on Friday evenings. The Governor Mifflin football team is consistently good, so playoff games, especially the first few weeks, are to be expected and the band will perform. We will continue to travel and support the football team during their playoff run.
4. **COMPETITIONS:** Competitions are held on either Saturday afternoons or evenings (99% of the time evenings). If poor weather conditions exist, we'll attend rain dates, which are scheduled differently for each competition (or the competition will be held indoors on the same date) -- unless this is in direct conflict with other activities that were preplanned (school related). All competition information -- directions, times, ticket info, will be posted on the competition page on the band website as soon as possible. Please buy your competition tickets through the presale period. They are many times cheaper and you do not have wait in line at the gate. More information will be given about this for each competition.
5. **PRACTICES/REHEARSALS:** Once the school year starts, all weekly practices will be during two weeknights (Monday-Thursday) each week. As soon as the Director is informed of the rehearsal days, they will be posted and communicated. It is expected that students are in the band room ready for brief announcements and instructions. We do practice before competitions on Saturdays, with the times being announced within two weeks of the competitions. The rough report time is 10:00 AM. Times will be announced and placed on the schedule and distributed in hard copy, through email, and on the website. There are also a few Saturday practices on non-competitive Saturdays, which are listed on the calendar. For more detail see the rehearsal schedule for the various ensembles below.

Marching Band

The first marching band rehearsal for the 2016–2017 school year is Tuesday, July 12, 2016 from 6-9 PM. Please refer to the calendar at the end of this book for the rest of the rehearsal dates. (Again, as soon as the Director finds out the field schedule, it will be communicated to everyone.)

Once the school year starts, we rehearse from 6-9 PM, 2 days per week until Championships on November 12 or 13. There may be a few dates where we will have to rehearse right after school or earlier than 6-9 PM. When I find out, I will make an announcement right away.

Attached (the last page) is a summer and fall rehearsal schedule. Please post it and plan accordingly. Extras are available for employers and family members. We ask that you do not schedule your vacation from August 8, 2016 until the beginning of school. This period of time is band camp. Most of the show is taught during this time period. Once band camp arrives, it is important that all students are at all band events.

Concert Band

Concert Band rehearsals happen during the school day. The only outside of the school day commitments are performances (concerts, trips, Memorial Day Parade).

Jazz Band and Indoor Groups

The Jazz Band and Indoor Groups rehearse in the evening following the marching band season. More information will be given to these groups in the fall.

SECTION V – GENERAL INFORMATION

1. **PERSONAL BELONGINGS:** All students are responsible for all of their own belongings. The Band Room will be locked at the beginning of practice and then opened at the conclusion of the practice; not in between. Students can also TEMPORILY (during the duration of the rehearsal) store valuables in their band lockers, which can be locked with a distributed key. If students do not take advantage of either of these options, we cannot be held responsible for stolen items.

2. **BAND INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF:** Instructional staff members in the areas of percussion, color guard, music, and marching are employed by the school district and the music association. These folks are outstanding, and are integral to the success of the program. They need to be given the exact same respect (or more) and consideration given to the Director.
3. **CELL PHONE/ELECTRONICS USE:** No electronics are to be used during rehearsal/practice, specifically during instructional parts of rehearsals. During breaks, students may absolutely use their phones or other electronics as long as they are back in their spot when they should be.
4. **MEALS:** All effort should be made to eat a nice meal before attending a rehearsal or performance. For competition performances, students typically have a chance to purchase meals put together by the parents. The meals vary for each competition. If students do not wish to eat the meal option provided, that is fine, but please pack a meal or have a parent drop a meal off. At no times are students allowed to leave once arriving for the activity (with the exception of lunch during Band Camp with parent permission – more information later). (See section 6 below) Students can of course purchase dinner at football games and competitions after we are done performing, or upon arrival at the event.
5. **COLOR GUARD/PERCUSSION EXTRA REHEARSALS:** Color Guard and Percussion members may occasionally need to attend an extra rehearsal. Notice for this rehearsal will be given with significant advance notice.
6. **CARS ON CAMPUS:** Students are of course permitted to drive to school for band activities, but we do not want the responsibility of an accident that might occur during the normal course of events while present for any session. For this reason, members are not permitted to drive on or off campus except to arrive for, or leave at the conclusion of, the rehearsal. All students driving are encouraged to do so responsibly.
7. **EMERGENCY MEDICAL/HEALTH FORM:** Parents are asked to read and complete a high school permission slip form and an emergency medical form, which will be kept in the confidential possession of the director. The purpose of this form is to have information available should the member need immediate medical attention. If the parents or guardians do not wish to divulge certain information, please indicate as such on the form. The forms are due at the first summer rehearsal.
8. **FEES:** The Governor Mifflin School District collects a yearly activity fee for all secondary students involved in extra curricular activities (marching band and jazz band are included in this fee). Currently this fee is \$75 and is due before the second week of the season. Checks should be made out to ***Governor Mifflin School District***. The fee may be paid to the High School Main Office. Please try to do this during Band Camp, and let the Director know you are taking care of it before going to pay.
9. **FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS**
 - Purchase 1 pair shoes, 1 pair of gloves (new as of 2015-2016), long black socks, winter hat (to be worn in stands), drawstring bag for personal items in the stands, etc...(approx \$40.00) (Students may use the same shoes and gloves each year)
 - Payment for lost or damaged equipment or accessories
 - Maintenance of equipment such as dry cleaning of the uniform
 - Rental fee for instruments where applicable
 - Guard equipment as necessary
 - Band T-Shirt
 - Trips (Disney Trips AND Championships for all groups)
10. **FUNDRAISING:** Governor Mifflin Music Association will run various fundraising events so that students may help raise money for the trip. The Governor Mifflin Music Association Fundraising will begin in the late summer, and is not required, however; it is recommended to help defray the cost of the trips like Disney World and Championships for the Indoor Groups. The money earned can carry on to the next year if it is not used in totality. The Governor Mifflin Music Association handles the fundraisers and the student accounts. If you have any questions, please ask a GMMA officer.
11. **ACADEMICS:** There is plenty of time to complete your school work and participate in band if you learn to budget your time. Many music students go on to post high school institutions and are in the top part of their class. If a student is struggling in a particular academic area, they will not have to look too far for extra help and tutors. Many students have or had the same teacher and are probably willing to lend a helping hand.

FINAL NOTE

Band is a hands-on activity and hopefully you are here because you enjoy playing music. Myself, and the rest of the band staff, are looking forward to a year of hard work, new ideas, and great shows. Please, keep in mind that the band staff is highly qualified, and here to make the band the best it can be. In order to reach the maximum potential, it is very important for each member to thoroughly understand and keep all rules, regulations, and expectations in mind. If everyone does their part and is individually responsible, the sky is the limit for this year's band. I am looking forward to the new heights this band is capable of reaching. Remember anything worth doing, is worth doing well. You will only get out of band what you put into it. Make it a great school year, and good luck with not only band or other musical endeavors, but also academic and community activities as well!!

CONTACT INFORMATION

Feel free to contact the music department and music teachers listed for more information.

Governor Mifflin High School
101 South Waverly Street
Shillington, PA 19607
610-775-5089

MR. DEININGER EMAIL – adeining@gmsd.k12.pa.us

MR. DEININGER PHONE – 610-775-5089 x6620

TWITTER – [@mrdspace](#)

MR. DEININGER'S TEACHER PAGE – <http://mrdspace.weebly.com/>

****ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CHANGES WILL BE POSTED HERE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE****

WHY LEARN MUSIC?

- 1. MUSIC IS A SCIENCE** – it is exact, specific, and it demands exact acoustics. A conductor's full score is a chart, a graph that indicates frequencies, intensities, volume changes, melody, and harmony, all at once with the most exact control of time.
- 2. MUSIC IS MATHEMATICAL** – it is rhythmically based on the subdivisions of time into fractions, which must be done instantaneously, not worked on paper.
- 3. MUSIC IS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE** – most of the terms are in Latin, Italian, German, or French, and the notation is certainly not English, but a highly developed kind of shorthand that uses symbols to represent ideas. The semantics of music is the most complete and universal language.
- 4. MUSIC IS HISTORY** – Music usually reflects the environment and times of its creation often even the country and/or racial feeling.
- 5. MUSIC IS PHYSICAL EDUCATION** – It requires fantastic coordination of finger, hand, arm, lip, cheek, and facial muscles, in addition to the extraordinary control of the diaphragmatic, back, stomach, and chest muscles, which respond instantly to the sound the ear hears and the mind interprets.
- 6. MUSIC DEVELOPS INSIGHT AND DEMANDS RESEARCH**
7. Music does all of these things, but most of all **MUSIC IS AN ART!** It allows a human being to take all these dry, technically boring (but difficult) techniques and use them to create emotion. That is one thing that science cannot duplicate; humanism, feeling, call it what you will. **THIS IS WHY WE SHOULD LEARN MUSIC!**

STATISTICS OF STUDENTS WHO STUDY MUSIC IN HIGH SCHOOL

BERKS COUNTY STATISTICS

Seventeen of Reading High School's valedictorians and salutatorians between 1994 and 2004 were musicians, many of whom doubled on some combination of voice, keyboard and a band or orchestral instrument.

Of the Reading Symphony Youth Orchestra's seniors who graduated in 2004, 57% were members of the National Honor Society and/or a national language honor society, and over 60% intend to major in fields other than music, which include mathematics, science, engineering, pharmacy, veterinary medicine, history and English.

NATIONAL STATISTICS

Students who participate in the arts at least nine hours each week for at least a year are four times more likely to be recognized for academic achievement, three times more likely to be elected to class office, four times more likely to win a school attendance award, four times more likely to participate in a science and math fair, and four times more likely to win an award for writing an essay or poem. -National Governors Association Center for Best Practices. *The Impact of Arts Education on Workforce Preparation*. Issue Brief, May 1, 2002.

2004 SAT takers who had taken courses in music appreciation scored 63 points higher on the verbal portion and 41 points higher on the math portion of the exam than their peers who took no courses in the arts. - *MENC*, "Scores of Students in the Arts," www.menc.org.

Second and third grade students who were taught fractions through musical rhythms scored 100% higher on fractions tests than those who learned in the conventional manner. - "Rhythm Students Learn Fractions More Easily," *Neurological Research*, March 15, 1999

College students majoring in music achieve scores higher than students of all other majors on college reading exams. - Carl Hartman, "Arts May Improve Students' Grades," *The Associated Press*, October 1999.

A research team exploring the link between music and intelligence reported that music training is far superior to computer instruction in dramatically enhancing children's abstract reasoning skills, the skills necessary for learning math and science. - Shaw, Rauscher, Levine, Wright, Dennis and Newcomb, "Music training causes long-term enhancement of preschool children's spatial-temporal reasoning," *Neurological Research*, Vol. 19, February 1997.

In an analysis of U.S. Department of Education data on more than 25,000 secondary school students (NELS:88, National Education Longitudinal Survey), researchers found that students who report consistent high levels of involvement in instrumental music over the middle and high school years show "significantly higher levels of mathematics proficiency by grade 12." This observation holds regardless of students' socio-economic status, and differences in those who are involved with instrumental music vs. those who are not are more significant over time. - Catterall, James S., Richard Chapleau, and John Iwanaga. "Involvement in the Arts and Human Development: General Involvement and Intensive Involvement in Music and Theater Arts." Los Angeles, CA: The Imagination Project at UCLA Graduate School of Education and Information Studies, 1999.

Research shows that when a child listens to classical music, the right hemisphere of the brain is activated, but when a child studies a musical instrument both left and right hemispheres of the brain "light up." Significantly, the areas that become activated are the same areas that are involved in analytical and mathematical thinking. -Dee Dickinson, "Music and the Mind," *New Horizons for Learning*, 1993.

Governor Mifflin Marching Band Schedule

Summer Rehearsals: July 12, 19, & 26 – 6-9 PM
August 2, 3, 4 – 6-9 PM
August 8-12 – 8:30-12 noon and 1-4 PM (Band Camp)
August 15-18 – 8:30-12 noon and 1-4 PM (Band Camp)
August 19 – 8:30-12 noon and 1-4 PM (Tentative Pool Party in the evening @ Shillington Pool)
August 23, 24, & 25 – 6-9 PM
(Color Guard & Percussion Only Rehearsals: June 13 & 27; July 11 & 25; August 1)

After school/evening rehearsal days will occur two times each week. The athletic department has not communicated which evenings have fields available; the exact days will be communicated as soon as the director is informed.

Rehearsals are usually from 6-9 PM.

(Occasionally we may have to do a rehearsal right after school or earlier in the evening, but it will be announced as soon as the Director is made aware of the time change.)

Football Games: September 2 – @ Wilson High School
September 9 – Cocalico High School
September 16 – Manheim Township High School
September 23 – @ Exeter Township High School
September 30 – Daniel Boone High School (Homecoming)
October 7 – @ West York High School
October 14 – Muhlenberg High School (Band Night)
October 21 – @ Reading High School
October 28 – @ Fleetwood High School
November 4 – Conrad Weiser High School
November 11/12 – Playoff Game
November 18/19 – Playoff Game
November 25/26 – Playoff Game
December 2/3 – Playoff Game
December 9/10 – Playoff Game
December 16/17 – Playoff Game
(Note: Football could go until December 17 if we make the state championship game.)

Competition Schedule: September 17 – Hempfield
September 24 – Boyertown
October 22 – Wilson
November 5 – Strike-Up the Bands at Governor Mifflin High School
November 12 OR 13 – Championships at Hershey Park Stadium OR Downingtown High School
On the morning/afternoon of competition days, please plan on rehearsing. Exact times will be announced closer to the event.

Parades/Other Events: August 31, 2016 – Mustang Preview – Approximately 7:00 PM in the HS Stadium
September 25, 2016 – Homecoming Parade
October, 15, 2016 – Great Pumpkin Parade
May 20, 2017 – Armed Forces Day Parade
May 29, 2017 – Memorial Day Parade (Tentatively Mohnton)

GOVERNOR MIFFLIN CONCERT BAND PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

****DATES ARE TENTATIVE****

December 1, 2016 – Benefit Concert (TENTATIVE)
March 4, 2017 – Pops Concert in GMIS Gym
May 11, 2017 – Spring Concert (TENTATIVE)
May 29, 2017 – Memorial Day Parade
June 2016 – Graduation (Grades 9-11 only) – ACTUAL DATE TBA

**** PLEASE FILL OUT THE ONLINE FORM AT <http://tinyurl.com/1617GMHSBandInfo> (PREFERRED - ALSO LINK FROM THE MAIN PAGE OF MY WEBSITE) OR THE BOTTOM OF THIS PAGE (IF NOT INTERNET CAPABILITIES) AND RETURN TO MR. DEININGER, MRS. GRIFFIN, OR MR. WILLIAMSON BY THURSDAY, MAY 26, 2016. ****

I have read and understand the Governor Mifflin High School Band Guide. I understand the time and financial commitments of the High School Band Program.

_____	_____
(student name)	(date)
_____	_____
(main instrument)	(grade 2016-2017)
_____	_____
(instrument desired for marching band)	(home phone number)
_____	_____
(parent cell phone number)	(student cell phone number)

Address: _____

(house number and street name)	(zip code)
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_____	_____
(student email)	(parent email)

_____ I will be able to participate in the field show. I have reviewed the schedule and understand the time commitment it takes to participate in the band.

_____ I play _____ as a fall sport and will not be able to march a spot in the field show.

I have read and understand the Band Guide, and understand the time and financial commitment. I also understand that while at a band function, I am under the rules and regulations of the Governor Mifflin High School Dress & Discipline Code.

_____	_____
(Student Signature)	(date)

I give permission for my son/daughter to participate in the Governor Mifflin Band Program. I have read and understand the Band Guide, and understand the time and financial commitment. I also understand that while at a band function, my son/daughter is under the rules and regulations of the Governor Mifflin High School Dress & Discipline Code.

_____	_____
(Parent/Guardian Signature)	(date)

Please list any possible date conflicts on the back of this sheet. This is very important in the planning process for the show.