

Alton High School



ALTON
MARCHING100

Student/Parent Handbook

2017-2018

Alyssa Overmann & Steven James, Directors

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www.altonschools.org

Sponsored by:

Alton Band and Orchestra Builders

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Welcome to the Alton High School Band Department

Home of the Marching 100

We are very excited that your family has chosen to participate in one of the largest and most successful groups at Alton High. The Marching 100 has a long tradition of excellence, and being a member will be a unique and rewarding experience for you and your student.

This handbook has been compiled to assist both the parent and the student. We hope that it will answer any questions and also serve as a reference for dates, requirements, and other important aspects of the band program. If you or your student have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the directors. Have a great year!

Who's Who in Alton Marching 100

Band Directors Alyssa Overmann 618- 474-6966 acudney@altonschools.org

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How Do I Find Out What is Going On?

Alton Band and Orchestra Builders (ABOB) meetings are held on the last Monday of each month at 7pm in the Alton High School Band Room, and every band parent is invited to attend. By having a student in the Alton School Band Program, you are automatically a member! At these meetings, a wealth of information is discussed ranging from upcoming dates/performances, fundraisers, volunteer needs, and much more.

The band also has a website that is updated regularly to keep you informed. The address is: <http://www.abob.net>

This website has the band calendar, itineraries, syllabus, drill, and many other forms that you or your student may need throughout the year. Please check it out, and return often for updates!

Please follow the **Marching 100 Twitter**: @M100Alton

Please join **Remind!** Text @Marching1 to 81010. The directors frequently will send out "text" reminders during the marching season.

You can also provide your email address on the registration form that you have been given with this handbook. Mrs. Overmann sends out weekly Band Updates that contain valuable information.

ABOB will often send out newsletters or volunteer requests by email, so please check it often!

If you do not have internet access at home, please let the directors know so we can get you print copies of the materials that are available online

The Top Ten Things You Should Know as a Band Parent

10. Your student is probably more capable than you realize.

Even if you have all the time in the world, you will start to feel like a personal servant if you don't ask your kids to take some responsibility for their own stuff. Water jugs, lunches, props, laundry -- it never ends. Encourage your child to think ahead and get everything together the night before -- waiting until the last minute is how things get left behind!

When you see what they accomplish and how hard they work for someone else, you will be amazed. This is an excellent time to start teaching (if you haven't already) self-management techniques that will serve them well throughout life. If you are inclined, help them create checklists so that they remember everything they need to bring. It will be a lot of stuff, so be ready.

9. Get out of the car and come join us.

Many parents do not realize that they can enter the band room without ill effect. Be respectful of practices going on, but come on in and see what is happening. Frequently, there are parents working on projects or hanging around. It is a great time to make introductions and let people know you are new to the band program.

Park the car and come down to the field. The last 15-20 minutes of practice will be a run through of what the kids have learned so far. Thursday nights are the traditional nights to view, but you will find parents in the stands most nights. Watching the evolution of the band and the kids is really inspiring. It will blow your mind what your kid can do! And believe it or not, you will not see the same *exact* show week after week. Bring the family and enjoy the show, but remember to stay quiet so you don't distract the kids.

On competition days, come inside after the band returns. This is a good time to congratulate or encourage your student. Drop by before they leave to let them know you support them. You may feel a bit more like a spectator than a parent, but the kids know you are there and they appreciate it. Join the crowd outside and come on in to see what all the excitement is about! The kids love the encouragement.

8. Learn to manage your time and teach your student how to manage theirs.

You WILL be busy -- especially from August through October. You will receive calendars in emails, but you MUST find a way to keep track of everything that works for you.

More importantly, your student will have to balance band and school work. It is not easy, but it can be done. Most band members carry a full load of classes; many are honor students with AP classes. You will have to find pockets of time

for homework and other responsibilities. Some students do homework on the bus when necessary. The freshman year is already a big adjustment.

7. Bring cash, warm clothes and something to sit on.

Most school functions require that you bring cash. Contests charge admission, anywhere from \$5 to \$10 per person. Children under 5 are usually admitted free. You **MUST** bring cash. Concessions are cash only, as are some souvenir vendors. Aluminum benches are hard and COLD, especially in October. Many of the events are outside. Plan accordingly. Something to sit on will make the experience more enjoyable and keep the cold from creeping in. Many parents bring a blanket or fleece to ward off the chill. Hats, gloves, scarves will help keep you comfortable. Obviously, if it is sunny out, remember sunscreen, hats and sunglasses. Just like the scouting motto: BE PREPARED.

6. Take care of the “committee chairs”.

If you would make a drawing of the perfect Band Parent, she/he would have six arms, three heads, and a heart of pure gold. Remarkably, band parents accomplish amazing things without the extra appendages. These are the people who dress your student, fix their hair, and wash their socks. They dispense wisdom, encouragement and snacks with laughter and generosity. They are the people on the front lines that make sure your student is ready to go on the field. This is a job that deserves far more recognition than most parents give. As soon as you know who the committee chairs are, contact her/him and find out how you can help. Band Parents supply snacks and beverages at EVERY competition so ask if you can donate. Pit crew helps load, unload, and gets the band on/off the field in time. It's a big, important job and you can make it easier. At the end of the season (and all through the season), remember to say “thank you” to those who help bring it all together.

5. Band Directors are people, too.

But they are BUSY people. They work long hours and their main focus is the kids. If you have a specific concern about your child and the band program, set up a time to discuss it. If you need general information, directors are probably not your best resource. Try a fellow parent first, or shoot Mrs. Overmann or Mr. James an email.

On another note: Marching band requires dedication and discipline from your student. The job of the directors is to help your student excel in band. Directors speak loudly, pointedly and sometimes without pleasantries. When mistakes are made, especially due to inattention or lack of effort, there are consequences. Try to relax and allow the process to work. Encourage your student to do their best, listen, and work hard. Everyone wants your child to be successful. You will learn this as you move through the season.

4. You are not alone.

Unless you want to be. Every parent -- okay, MOST parents, feel overwhelmed at first. The whole first year is a scramble to keep up. Here are some good phrases to put into use: "Excuse me, I'm new and I was wondering ...", "Hi, I'm a freshman parent, my name is ...". "I'm Ben's mom and I heard ...". You will be surprised how quickly you will be pulled into the fold. Timing is everything, of course. If you ask someone who is obviously busy, you may not get the welcome you hoped for. Rarely are other parents too busy to help you. We want you to join us and we love to share our experience with you.

Your student will be making all kinds of new friends, why shouldn't you? You can find people to carpool with, volunteer with, celebrate with, and commiserate with. Band parents are valuable resources. They can help you find solutions to your dilemmas, and there will be dilemmas. You will also get to know the parents of the kids your student is hanging around. What a bonus!

3. We can't do it without you—volunteer and come to the ABOB meetings.

You will be asked to commit time, energy, donations, and the band fees to the band program. Unlike many sports programs, the Marching 100 must have parent volunteers for the programs to run smoothly -- and it is the best way to get to know others. Plan to attend as many ABOB meetings as you can. They are only once a month for about an hour. Mrs. Overmann usually addresses the parents with updates on the show and will answer parent questions. It is time well spent.

About volunteering ... no experience necessary. No, REALLY! There are tasks that require specific skills, but most opportunities do not. If you can pull a soda from a cooler, take tickets at a gate, use scissors, sew or build props - you have all the skills you need. Better yet, there is so much to do, you are bound to find something you actually enjoy doing. At first it looks like everyone else knows what is going on but you. Take the initiative "I am new, and I'm here to help." We will put you to work straight away at something that is not far outside your comfort zone. It may be just a little outside, and the feeling will pass quickly. It won't hurt a bit. You will be helping keep YOUR band fees down and have fun doing it. Trust us, we've been there.

2. READ YOUR EMAIL.

This could be said a thousand times and still not be said enough. As the season progresses, you may get multiple messages each day. READ THEM. CHECK YOUR EMAIL DAILY. You may not always completely understand the emails, but READ THEM. If you are completely lost, you can ask Mrs. Overmann or Mr. James or the committee chairs for more info. We want you to understand what is going on, but you have to read your email and ask questions. If you don't, you may have unfortunate results, miss something important, or miss something fun.

1. Yes, it's worth it!

All of the rides, time, and effort (and it is extraordinarily a lot) that as a parent, you put into getting your child to practices are worth every second. You may not be able to appreciate that in the beginning. Your student may get discouraged at

first. There is a lot of repetition, hot sweaty days, failures, and disappointments. Then the show starts to come together and everything changes. There is a new energy, a new excitement. This is the point where they will either LOVE band, or plan a different activity next year. Most of the kids LOVE band by the end of the season, so make them tough it out for the whole season. It will be worth it. You may be uncomfortable at points. You will feel unsure. If you can push past the confusion and the chaos, you will probably get hooked like the rest of us. There is no way to describe how amazing this experience can be, but if you get involved you will find out for yourself.

NOTE: If you've only read this far you are already ahead of where many of us were when we joined.
Hold fast to your handbooks (put them someplace you can find them, like a binder or folder), check your email, and attend ABOB meetings.

Instrument Rental

Students are expected to own and maintain their own instruments. However, the district does provide exotic or large instruments (some percussion equipment, tubas, baritones, bassoons, oboes, bass clarinets, etc.) and has a limited supply of other instruments for those in need. Students who are part of the free/reduced lunch program are eligible to rent an instrument from the district at no charge. They simply need to fill out the rental form and return it to a director to receive their instrument.

Students who are not on free/reduced lunch who need to rent an instrument are required to pay a \$40.00 instrument rental fee in addition to filling out the rental form. The fee and form can be turned into the directors.

*All damages and repairs required while the student is renting the instrument is the responsibility of the student. If the instrument is not returned in the condition in which it was issued, all repairs will be billed to the student. *

Locker/Locks

Every band member will be issued a locker to hold their music, instrument, and dot book only. Band lockers are not the place for clothes, shoes, or other school books. Any of these items found in lockers will be confiscated and sent to the lost and found or library.

Each band member will also be issued a lock to secure their equipment. The locks are the property of the band, and should they be lost, the student will owe \$10.00 to replace it.

Grading Policy

All grades will be based on the following criteria: participation, attendance at all performances, periodic playing tests (assigned at the discretion of the

directors), and memorization tests (assigned at the discretion of the directors). More information can be found in the Band Syllabus that is distributed in August.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is mandatory at all band performances! Any problems will be dealt with on an individual basis.

Attendance at all rehearsals is also mandatory. However, we understand that students and families are busy, and some rehearsals need to be missed. In order for an absence to be excused, the student needs to turn in an absence request form (found in this handbook and on the website) at least two weeks prior to the rehearsal to be missed. The directors will then inform the student if the absence will be excused.

Any emergency situations that require a student to miss a performance or rehearsal need to be communicated to the directors as soon as possible either by phone or email.

Work and/or homework is not an excuse to miss rehearsal. The calendar is distributed in plenty of time – please give a copy to your employer and make sure they do not schedule you on rehearsal dates! Also, please plan ahead and manage your time wisely – work on homework ahead of time!

In order for an absence to be excused, an excused absence form must be turned in or Mrs. Overmann/Mr. James must receive a phone call/email/note.

Failure to do so (no call/no show) will affect the student's grade, and will prevent them from performing at that week's performance (football game, competition, etc.).

In order for a student to make up the missed grade (rehearsal or performance) they will be given a written make up assignment. The assignment will be distributed when the need for the absence is communicated, and will be due at the time the rehearsal/performance begins.

For example, if a student will miss a football game two weeks from now and tells the directors, they have two weeks to complete the assignment.

Tardy Policy

During class time, the band will abide by Alton High School's tardy policies. For after school rehearsals/performances, points will be deducted from the student's grade.

Attendance & Suspension Policy

A. Students involved in band activities must be in attendance at school for at least one-half day (3 hours) of classes in order to practice or participate in activities that day. Any exceptions must be cleared by the directors.

B. A student who is absent on Friday may participate in a game or contest on Saturday. The director should take into account the reason for the absence from school on Friday when determining playing time during a Saturday contest.

C. If a performer misses a rehearsal the day before a performance, his or her performing eligibility will be determined by the director and based upon the reason for missing rehearsal.

D. At the discretion of the director, any player who has any unexcused absences from rehearsal may be removed from the performance and/or made an alternate.

E. In-School Detention (ISD)

1. The student will be allowed to practice (after school) during his/her time in ISD.

2. The student will not be allowed to participate in competitions until his/her time in ISD is completed.

F. Out of School Suspension (OSS)

1. The student will be suspended from all rehearsals and performances for the duration of the out of school suspension.

2. The student cannot travel with the band or attend a performance, even as a spectator, until their suspension is completed.

3. The student may be removed from the band in coordination with their suspension from school and his/her missed practices and performances.

RULES AND GUIDELINES FOR ALTON BANDS

1. Stop when the conductor/staff member cuts you off.
2. Do **not** talk when a conductor/staff member is talking
3. Respect yourself and others at **all** times.
4. No food, drink (except water), or gum in class or the band room at any time
5. **No** PDA (Public Displays of Affection) at any time during rehearsal, in uniform, or on any band trip
6. Keep band, locker, percussion, and practice rooms spotless

Rehearsal Guidelines:

1. Every student is expected to have their instrument, music, and dot book with them at all rehearsals. Failure to do so will result in loss of participation points.
2. Students should behave considerately to whomever is on the podium, whether it is a director, staff member, drum major, or guest of the band.
3. After a repetition:
 - a. **stop** at the designated stopping point
 - b. **listen** for instructions from a director, staff member, or drum major
 - c. **move** quickly to the instructed spot

Performance Guidelines:

1. Make sure all parts of your uniform are clean and properly fitted. Improper uniform care will not be tolerated, and may prevent you from performing.
2. Make sure your instrument is in good repair and you can perform to the best of your ability
3. All students are to report to the place and time designated by the directors
4. When in uniform: No PDA, No eating/drinking (except water), No swearing, No smoking, No running (unless told to do so by a director or staff member)

5. Everyone should be professional when in a performance setting. Remember you are representing yourself, your family, the Marching 100, Alton High School, and Alton, IL. Unprofessional behavior may result in dismissal from the band program.

Marching Band Commitment

There is a time and monetary commitment required to participate in a successful marching band. This includes summer rehearsals, band camps, after school rehearsals, football games, and marching contests. Specific sections (percussion/color guard) may have other rehearsals as well.

The summer rehearsal schedule will be posted as soon as it is available. It is recommended that family vacations be scheduled in early June or July to avoid missing crucial summer rehearsals and performances. As stated in the attendance policy, attendance at all rehearsals and performances is mandatory.

Marching Band Fees

Band Camp Fee - \$50 *All students must pay this fee*

This can be paid in two installments: First installment due June 1 and Second installment due July 1.

Camp fees must be paid before Band Camp starts.

Shoes (For new marchers) - \$37

Gloves - \$4/pair

Show Shirt - \$15

Pep Band Shirt (for new band members) - \$12

Percussion Extras

Percussion stick/mallet kit – Will be announced when it becomes available

Color Guard Extras

Shoes – Will be announced when it becomes available

Gloves - \$15

Winter Season Fees

If your student participates in Winter Guard or Winter Percussion, there may be additional fees for uniforms, transportation, lodging, etc. These expenses will be defined during auditions for these ensembles.

Rehearsal Clothing

Students should wear comfortable clothing to all rehearsals. Shirts – shorts – sweats – loose fitting pants – socks – and good tennis shoes are the recommended attire for rehearsals. Please check weather reports and plan your attire accordingly. For after school rehearsals, students will be given time to change from school attire to rehearsal attire.

Students in the color guard should check with the Guard Director for the appropriate dress style.

Lack of proper rehearsal clothing or shoes will result in loss of participation points

Uniforms

Band Members

In June, uniforms will be fitted for each student. Each member will be issued bibs (overall pants), jacket, shako, and gloves. Band members are required to wear the show shirt, athletic shorts, and **black** socks underneath their uniform for **all** performances.

Uniform Care Procedures

The following procedures are to be followed by each band member. Your cooperation is appreciated.

1. Uniforms are to be hung properly at all times.
2. No eating or drinking (except water) in uniform
3. Normal wear and tear is expected, however if you have any problems with your uniform bring it up to a director or a uniform parent as soon as possible
4. Shoes **never** go in the garment bag
5. Your name and uniform ID numbers need to be visible on the card in the ID window of your garment bag (make sure you have the right uniform and bag!)
6. After wearing the uniform in hot weather, it must be hung outside the clothing bag to dry. If you don't, it will be moldy the next time you wear it!

7. Gloves and shoes must be clean at all times
8. **No** jewelry is to be worn while in uniform

Shako:

- Keep in case at all times
- Always set down in an upright position
- Wear it at the front of the head, not the back
- No hair should be visible – long hair needs to be pinned up in the helmet

Plumes:

- You will receive a plume prior to each performance
- Do not handle plumes with your bare hands
- Do not play with the plumes
- Return the plume after each performance

Jacket:

- Always hang on the issued hanger with the curve of the hanger matching the shoulders
- Snaps or zipper should be fastened when storing the jacket
- Always wear the show shirt underneath

Gauntlets:

- Gauntlets will be stored in the hat box.
- Take great care to keep them clean (do not throw them on the ground!)
- Return gauntlets to your hat box after each performance

Pants:

- Hang on the issued hanger: Over the wooden bar and clipped on. Align creases without twists
- Always wear athletic shorts underneath
- Always wear black socks – socks must extend up leg several inches – no ankle socks!

Shoes:

- Keep clean and polished
- If we march in mud, the sooner the shoes are cleaned the easier it is to clean them
- Do not put shoes in garment bag at any time

Contests and Invitational Performances

By the Thursday before the performance, an itinerary will be available on the band website and emailed out. The itinerary will include a schedule, what to bring, and an address of the performance site.

Parents should plan on attending as many performances as possible. It's a great way to meet other parents and to get to know the students. Also, the band appreciates hearing the cheers as we march on and off the field!

Parents can follow the 'caravan' to the performances, ride the bus as a chaperone, or drive up on their own.

Please note: On band trips, Alton High School and Alton High School Bands are not responsible for any lost, damaged, or stolen items that a student may bring along with them. Any losses or damages incurred are the sole responsibility of the student/parent.

Parent Releases – Picking Up a Student from the Performance Site

Occasionally a student would like to leave with their parents immediately after a performance. This is fine, as long as the student informs the parent chaperone on their bus that they will not be riding the bus home. Also, after the performance, the student and their parent must find Mrs. Overmann, Mr. James, or their bus chaperone and inform them that you are leaving. At that point, you will be free to leave with your parent.

Students who leave with parents will be responsible for taking their uniform and instrument home with them. Since tuba and percussion instruments go on the trailer, the student is responsible for finding another student who will unload their instrument for them and put it away.

Students will not be allowed to leave with any parent other than their own unless the directors receive written permission from their parent or guardian stating that the student may leave with a different parent.

Alternate System

Every student at Alton High is eligible to be in the Marching 100. However, we cannot guarantee that every student will march. Since marching band is a competitive activity we compare it to any varsity sport – not everyone makes the team, and even if you do make the team you're not guaranteed to play. There is also a safety issue involved – if a student has difficulty marching in time or

remembering where they are supposed to go, they endanger all the other students around them. If a student is not moving with the rest of the group, they increase the chance that students will bump into each other and fall down. This triggers a chain reaction that can injure many students or damage instruments.

In order to avoid these problems, we use an alternate system. The directors will observe and 'test' each student to ensure that they can move and play as they have been instructed. If the directors decide that a student needs to be an alternate, they will inform the student and provide the reasons as to why a student will be an alternate. Alternates will still be enrolled in band, will receive a letter grade, and will be required to attend all rehearsals and performances. They will perform in pregame and halftime at football games, and will dress in uniform at all performances.

Please understand that if a student still cannot demonstrate that they know where they are going or cannot march in time, the directors reserve the right to refuse to let the student perform.

Students who have demonstrated irresponsible behavior, are repeatedly tardy to rehearsals, or who have unexcused absences from rehearsals or performances may be made an alternate at any time or prevented from performing, at the discretion of the directors.

1 – 2 Camp! Tuesday, May 30 & Wednesday, May 31 6-8:00pm

This is for all Freshmen and Sophomore members of the Marching 100 as well as student leaders. We will go over basic marching technique, how to hold your instrument, etc. This will also be a great opportunity to meet new people and make friends!

Summer Rehearsals – Tuesdays from 6-8:30pm

The summer rehearsals are every Tuesday evening throughout the summer. If you are in town, you are expected to be at rehearsal. Any absences need to be communicated with the directors with an excused absence form. We will be working on marching basics, parade music/routine, and the show at these rehearsals, so they are important!

Band Camp – July 24 – August 3

Information for this camp will also be posted online and given to students at one of the June rehearsals. At this camp we learn the drill and visual aspects of our show and really work on 'putting the whole package together.' This camp will be a lot of hard work, but will also be a ton of fun! For success at this camp, we recommend the following:

- Sunscreen! Bring it with you and reapply often!
- A hat
- Sunglasses
- A large water jug

- Wear light colored, loose fitting clothing

- Eat a light, healthy breakfast and avoid drinking milk

All students are required to attend this camp!

What Every Parent Needs to Know About Marching 100

Fund Raisers

During the year, ABOB participates in many fundraisers to help the '100' pay for competitions, shirts, equipment, and any other needs. Some of these fundraisers are: cheese and sausage sale, trivia night, butterbraid sale, craft fair, dinner auction, and many more. Parent and student participation is needed to continue to have successful fundraisers and a successful program.

On trip years, there will also be fundraisers to help students raise the money needed to participate in the trip. Students will be able to participate in these fundraisers, and can completely fund their trip through these efforts. Examples of these fundraisers are: broom sales, pizza sales, etc.

Parent Volunteer Opportunities

The Marching 100, as well as all of the Alton Bands, Drumline, and Color Guard provide great opportunities for both you and your child. A program like ours needs not only financial, but also physical support in order to succeed. We need your help and support in order to thrive. Volunteer opportunities are described below.

CHAPERONES

Only parents or guardians of Marching 100 members are allowed to chaperone. Chaperones are required on every bus for every trip the band takes. A chaperone's responsibility is to ride the bus with the students and ensure that they are acting appropriately. Chaperones take attendance and ensure that all students are accounted for, ensure student safety, and appoint students to check that the bus is clean and empty at the end of the trip. 2017 Chair: Amy Miller

UNIFORMS

Uniform parents help to issue and fit uniforms at the beginning of the summer, and then help collect them at the end of the season. They will help hem pants and jackets as needed, and will also make minor uniform repairs (stitching a seam, replacing a button, etc.) Uniform parents help clean the uniforms, and will help ensure that students hang their uniforms properly. 2017 Chair: Dan McKinney

PIT CREW

The pit crew helps the front ensemble move equipment at every performance. They also help assemble and move the drum major podiums. This crew does require some lifting and pushing, but is necessary to help the 100 get on and off the field on time! 2017 Chair: Doug Bogert & Eric Overmann

FUNDRAISERS

Several fundraisers require parent leadership and support. Other events that need parent support include: Trivia Night, Craft Fair, Solo & Ensemble, and Dinner Auction. If you have any special interest or talent, we can use you! Please get involved!!! ABOB Ways & Means Chair: Cortney Frosch.

EXECUTIVE CHEFS

The Marching 100 executive chefs provide all snacks and meals for the students at band camps and marching competitions. It involves making sandwiches, filling coolers, and ensuring that there is enough food to go around! 2017 Chairs: Ralph and Carol Wheaton

Please consider being involved. There is always something that needs to be done. Your help is greatly appreciated. Don't wait to be asked, if you see something going on that looks interesting to you, offer to help. It is a great way to meet not only your children's friends but also their parents.



Bands/Ensembles Offered at Alton High School

Marching 100 (Band 3/Band 3 H) Marching 100 is the most visible ensemble at Alton High. The band performs in many venues throughout the year including the St. Louis VP Parade, Alton Halloween parade, all Alton High home football games, and various marching competitions throughout Illinois and Missouri. Students are required to attend after school rehearsals, football games, and marching competitions. After marching season ends at the end of October, the Marching 100 divides into two bands: Wind Symphony and Symphonic Band.

Symphonic Band (Band 3) Symphonic Band will review the basics of music theory and playing their instrument and then work on concert band literature. During marching season, time will be split between concert band literature and marching band technique. At the end of marching season, this group will combine with the non-marching freshman as the Concert Band.

Concert Band (Band 2/Band 3) This mainly freshman ensemble is the year-round non-marching ensemble offered. This group will review the basics of music theory and playing their instrument and then work on concert band literature. At the end of marching season, this group and some Marching 100 students will combine as a concert band.

Wind Symphony (Band 3/Band 3 H) Wind Symphony is the smaller concert band offered at Alton High. This band forms after marching season and works on challenging concert band literature.

Jazz Band Jazz band is an extracurricular activity taught by Alton Middle School band director Tim Jarden. The jazz band meets on Wednesdays from 3:30 – 5pm and works on everything from swing to funk to rock!

Redbird Rhythm Redbird Rhythm is the pep band that plays at home basketball games. All students in the band program are required to participate. Redbird Rhythm is divided into Red and Gray pep bands. Students are divided evenly into the bands. The uniform for this group is a red t-shirt (\$12) and jeans.

Winterguard This ensemble is a continuation of the Marching 100 color guard. They have auditions after marching season and learn new skills and a completely new show to perform indoors. All students are invited to audition for the Winterguard. The Winterguard also travels to competitions throughout the Midwest.

Marching 100 'Frequently Asked Questions'

Many parents have questions pertaining to what we do, but they don't know where to look or what to ask. Hopefully this list will help you find what you are looking for. If not, please do not hesitate to contact the directors!

Q. What if something comes up and I need to pick up my child or take my child to a contest instead of letting them ride the bus?

A. If possible, please inform the directors in advance. Please follow the procedures listed under Parent Releases on Page 13. The buses cannot leave a contest until all students are accounted for.

Q. What kind of food does my child need to take with them to a contest or an all day practice?

A. They need to have nutritious food and water, lots of water. There is sometimes nowhere to buy food, and the students are on a pretty tight schedule. If special arrangements are being made for food those announcements will be on the itinerary on the band website.

Q. How do I get to a show?

A. You can car pool with other parents, drive yourself following the directions that are usually on the show schedules on the website or you can ride the bus as a chaperone.

Q: What expenses will my student have?

A: We try to keep the expenses as low as possible, which is why fundraising is so important. Your student is required to pay the \$50 band camp fee, purchase gloves and marching shoes, and keep their instrument in working condition. Your student will also have occasions where they will need to have money to purchase lunch or dinner at a marching competition. Once we enter concert band season, your student will be also responsible for owning the books used in rehearsal.

On trip years, there will obviously be more expense. Going on a trip is not mandatory, but is highly encouraged. All trips are designed to be educational, fun, and memorable for the students. Each student that goes on a trip is required to pay their own way. However, there are plenty of fundraising opportunities to help ease the cost.

Q: When/Where does the Marching 100 practice?

A: The directors will issue a calendar (and put it on the website) that will have details of when and where all rehearsals are. Most rehearsals are at Alton High School, however we frequently use Public School Stadium at West Elementary.

All rehearsals will begin promptly at the scheduled time, and we strive to get the students out on time. However, students do need time to put equipment away, so please be patient!

Q: How can I get schedules, calendars, and other important information?

A: The directors will discuss all upcoming events with the students at rehearsals. However, we know that sometimes information can get “lost in the shuffle.” Your best bet is to check the band’s website at

<http://www.abob.net>

All schedules and calendars will be posted there!

Q: If I can’t find the answer to my question in this handbook where do I go?

A: Please do not hesitate to contact the directors at any time with questions. Our contact information is listed at the beginning of the handbook.



In order to verify that both student and parent have read and understand this handbook, please initial and sign below (both students and parents need to initial/sign.)

_____ I have read and understand that there is information listed on the band website, and I know how to contact the directors.

_____ I have read and understand the Grading Policy

_____ I have read and understand the Attendance and Tardy policy

_____ I have read and understand the rules and guidelines for Alton Bands

_____ I have read and understand the financial commitment to participate in Marching 100

_____ I have read and understand the proper rehearsal clothing for every rehearsal and also what I need to bring to every rehearsal

_____ I have read and understand how to properly wear and care for the Marching 100 uniform

_____ I have read and understand how to pick up a student from a performance site

_____ I have read and understand the alternate system, and understand how a student may be changed to an alternate.

_____ I have read and understand that all students are required to attend the Music and Motion Camp.

I have read this handbook and understand its contents, which include the rules for rehearsals, appropriate behavior, and rehearsal and performance attendance. I agree to put forth my best effort toward this ensemble.

Student Signature

Date

I have reviewed and understand my student's Alton High School Band Program Handbook.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Excused Absence Request Form

This form is to be used to request an excused absence from a scheduled practice, rehearsal, or performance. Once submitted, the request will be considered, and the student will be notified as to whether the absence will be excused or unexcused. An absence that is unexcused will result in loss of points toward your grade. Any absence (other than an emergency) that does not have a request form turned in will be unexcused.

This form is to be submitted at least one week in advance of the event.

Those absent due to an illness or a death in the immediate family are asked to report their situation using this form. Any advanced notice regarding illness or family emergency is greatly appreciated. The band director's phone numbers are listed below.

Alyssa Overmann

Steven James

618 474-6966

618-474-2236

acudney@altonschools.org

mdavis@altonschools.org

Student Name: _____

Date and Activity being "requested": _____

Today's Date: _____

Briefly explain your reason for this request: (e.g. work, sports, church, family, etc.)

Student Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Absence Excused: _____ Absence Unexcused: _____

Student Information Form

Student's Name (Last, First) _____

Guardian's Name (Last, First) _____

Address _____

Town, ZIP _____

Home Phone _____

Cell Phone _____

Work Phone _____

Guardian's email address _____