



**2018 – 2019
Pride of Mill Creek
Marching Band
Information Packet**

**The 2018-2019 Marching Band Registration Meeting will be held on
May 1st at 7 pm in the Mill Creek High School Theatre.**

**For questions, please email:
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www.prideofmillcreek.org

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March 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29 Drumline Clinic 6:00-8:00 (All interested percussionists should attend)	30 Good Friday	31

April 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 Online Registration Opens- look for an email!	10 Drumline Clinic 4:30-7:00 (All interested percussionists should attend)	11	12	13 Drumline Clinic 4:30-7:00 (All interested percussionists should attend)	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 Drumline Clinic 4:30-7:00 (All interested percussionists should attend)	27	28
29	30 Color Guard Auditions 6:00-8:30 Leadership Week- any veteran members interested					

May 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Marching Band Registration Meeting- 7 pm in MCHS Theatre Color Guard Auditions 6:00-8:30 Payment 1 Due (\$200)	2 Color Guard Auditions 6:00-8:30	3 Color Guard Auditions 6:00-8:30	4 Color Guard Auditions 6:00-8:30 Drumline Auditions 4:30-7:00 Leadership Interviews and Drum Major Auditions	5 Drumline Auditions 1:00-4:00
6	7 Color Guard New Member Practice 6-8:30	8	9 Color Guard New Member Practice 6-8:30	10	11 Marching Band Registration Closes	12
13 Mother's Day	14	15	16 Color Guard New Member Practice 6-8:30	17	18	19 Physicals at MCHS 8am-12pm Marching Band Kickoff 2pm Location TBD
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28 Memorial Day	29	30	31		

June 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Payment 2 Due (\$200)	2
3	4	5	6	7 Full Guard Rehearsal 9:00- 7:00	8	9
10	11	12	13	14 Full Guard Rehearsal 9:00- 7:00	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26 Guard Dance Camp 9-4	27 Guard Dance Camp 9-4	28 Guard Dance Camp 9-4 Parent Performance at 5 in theatre	29	30

July 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4 Independence Day	5	6	7
8	9 Payment 3 Due (\$200)	10 Gwinnett Marching Leadership Academy (any vets that want to participate) Full Guard Rehearsal 9:00-7:00	11 GMLA cont. DCI Show at Mill Creek **REQUIRED VOLUNTEER OBLIGATION**	12 Full Guard Rehearsal 9:00-7:00	13	14
15	16 Band Camp 9-12: Rookies, Drumline, Leadership 1-4: Full Band 9-4: All Color Guard	17 Band Camp 9-12: Rookies, Drumline, Leadership 1-4: Full Band 9-4: All Color Guard	18 Band Camp 9-4: Full Band and All Color Guard	19 Band Camp 9-9: Full Band and Color Guard 1-9: Spirit Guard MCBB Meeting	20	21
22	23 Band Camp 9-9: Full Band and Color Guard 1-9: Spirit Guard	24 Band Camp 9-9: Full Band and Color Guard 1-9: Spirit Guard	25 Band Camp 9-9: Full Band and Color Guard 1-9: Spirit Guard	26 Band Camp 9-9: Full Band and Color Guard 1-9: Spirit Guard	27 Band Camp 9-9: Full Band and Color Guard 1-9: Spirit Guard	28 Band Camp 9-1: Full Band and Full Color Guard 2:00: Preview Show, Picnic and Silent Auction
29	30	31				

August 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Payment 4 Due (\$200)	2 Schedule Pick Up Day	3	4 Full Band Rehearsal 9:00- 4:00
5	6 First Day of School Band Pictures: 3:00 Rehearsal 4-6 Full Guard Rehearsal 6:00-8:30	7 Full Band Rehearsal 3:00-6:00 (stretching at 2:50)	8	9 Full Band Rehearsal 5:00-8:00 (stretching at 4:50)	10	11
12	13 Band Rehearsal 3:00-6:00 (stretching at 2:50) Full Guard Rehearsal 6:00-8:30	14 Full Band Rehearsal 3:00-6:00 (stretching at 2:50)	15	16 Full Band Rehearsal 5:00-8:00 (stretching at 4:50)	17 Full Band Rehearsal 3:00-9:00	18 6 th Grade Start Up Clinic Corky Kell Game vs. Walton at Mercedez Benz
19	20 Band Rehearsal 3:00-6:00 (stretching at 2:50) Full Guard Rehearsal 6:00-8:30	21 Full Band Rehearsal 3:00-6:00 (stretching at 2:50)	22	23 Full Band Rehearsal 5:00-8:00 (stretching at 4:50) Spirit Guard 5-8	24 Football vs. Dacula	25 Full Band Rehearsal 9:00- 4:00
26	27 Band Rehearsal 3:00-6:00 (stretching at 2:50) Full Guard Rehearsal 6:00-8:30	28 Full Band Rehearsal 3:00-6:00 (stretching at 2:50)	29	30 Full Band Rehearsal 5:00-8:00 (stretching at 4:50)	31 Football at Norcross	

September 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3 Labor Day	4 Full Band Rehearsal 3:00-6:00 (stretching at 2:50)	5	6 Full Band Rehearsal 5:00-8:00 (stretching at 4:50) Spirit Guard 5-8	7 Football vs. Archer	8
9	10 Band Rehearsal 3:00-6:00 (stretching at 2:50) Guard Rehearsal 6:00-8:30	11 Full Band Rehearsal 3:00-6:00 (stretching at 2:50)	12	13 Full Band Rehearsal 5:00-8:00 (stretching at 4:50)	14 Full Band Rehearsal 3:00-9:00	15 Full Band Rehearsal 9:00-4:00
16	17 Band Rehearsal 3:00-6:00 (stretching at 2:50) Guard Rehearsal 6:00-8:30	18 Full Band Rehearsal 3:00-6:00 (stretching at 2:50)	19	20 Full Band Rehearsal 5:00-8:00 (stretching at 4:50)	21 Football at Duluth	22 Gwinnett County Band Exhibition at Collins Hill HS- ALL DAY
23	24 Full Band Rehearsal 3:00-6:00 (stretching at 2:50) Spirit Guard 6-8:30	25 Full Band Rehearsal 3:00-6:00 (stretching at 2:50)	26	27 Full Band Rehearsal 5:00-8:00 (stretching at 4:50) Spirit Guard 5-8	28 Football vs. Peachtree Ridge	29 BOA Clarksville
30						

October 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Full Band Rehearsal 3:00-6:00 (stretching at 2:50) Spirit Guard 6-8:30	2 No Rehearsal Fine Arts Showcase	3	4 Fall Break	5 Band Rehearsal 12:00-4:00 Football at North Gwinnett	6 Fall Break
7	8 Fall Break Columbus Day	9 Full Band Rehearsal 3:00-6:00 (stretching at 2:50)	10	11 Band Rehearsal 4:00-7:00 (stretching at 3:50) Spirit Guard 4-7	12 Football vs. Discovery	13 Homecoming
14	15 Full Band Rehearsal 3:00-6:00 (stretching at 2:50) Spirit Guard 6-8:30 Band Fall Concert 7:00-9:00	16 Full Band Rehearsal 3:00-6:00 (stretching at 2:50) Academic Letter Night	17	18 Band Rehearsal 4:00-7:00 (stretching at 3:50)	19 Football at Mountain View	20 Georgia State University Marching Band Championship- ALL DAY
21	22 Full Band Rehearsal 3:00-6:00 (stretching at 2:50) Spirit Guard 6-8:30	23 Full Band Rehearsal 3:00-6:00 (stretching at 2:50)	24	25 Band Rehearsal 4:00-7:00 (stretching at 3:50)	26 Band Rehearsal 3:00-9:00 Community Performance 9:00	27 BOA Powder Springs
28	29 Full Band Rehearsal 3:00-6:00 (stretching at 2:50) Trunk or Treat	30	31 Halloween			

November 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 Football vs. Collins Hill (Senior Night)	3
4	5	6	7	8	9 Possible Playoff Game	10
11 Veterans Day	12	13 Band Banquet 7:00	14	15	16 Possible Playoff Game	17
18	19	20	21	22 Thanksgiving Day	23 Possible Playoff Game	24
25	26	27	28	29	30 Possible Playoff Game	

December 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7 Possible Playoff Game	8
9	10	11	12 Winter Concert	13 Winter Concert	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25 Christmas	26	27	28	29
30	31					

General Information

Is there a prerequisite or audition for Marching Band?

All wind and percussion students must be enrolled and be members in good standing in a performing ensemble class to be eligible to be in the Marching Band. There is no audition to participate, but percussion students must attend marching percussion audition camp to be assigned their instrument. No students are 'cut' at this audition; they are simply assigned an instrument for the season.

What forms do I need to complete for my student to march?

The Pride of Mill Creek Marching Band Registration Form must be completed online. A completed Gwinnett County Physical form will be required before band camp in order to participate.

When are all of the rehearsals for marching band?

The calendar for the marching season is included in this packet. It is also posted and updated on our Charms website and band website. Please remember that homework, work schedules, etc. are not excused and conflicts are to be avoided. It is critical for your student to attend all rehearsals and events. After school begins, rehearsals are after school on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, with football games on Friday nights. There are also weekend events that the student must attend (i.e. competitions, Saturday rehearsals, etc.)

What is Charms?

Charms is office management software that serves as our communication hub. Any handouts, minutes from meetings, or calendars that you might need are found in Charms. An email about how to log into Charms and how it is used will be sent to all members prior to band camp. You will be given access after you return your registration forms and the database is updated. To get a preview of the system, please visit www.charmsoffice.com. Our school code is **millcreekhsband**. You will have access to our public areas and calendar.

The Mill Creek High School Band Booster, Inc.- Parents of Mill Creek Band members are encouraged to become active members of the MCBBA. A list of officers of the organization, as well as their contact information can be found on the band's website- www.prideofmillcreek.net. Meetings of the MCBBA are held throughout the school year. A schedule of the meetings can be found on the band's Charms site. Volunteers are always needed and welcomed. Please contact the band booster president for information on volunteering for the group.

Financial Details

What are Marching Fees and what do they cover?

Marching band is classified as a co-curricular subject and as such is not directly funded through the Gwinnett County Schools. Therefore, fundraising and marching fees become the financial engine of the marching band. Marching fees cover the cost of arrangement and writing of the music, original drill writing, 150 hours of individual and group instruction during band camp, special event nights during band camp, show shirt, medical supplies, specialized instruction for color guard and oftentimes a choreographer brought in to help with movement of the band, over 100 hours of instruction after band camp, mini-camp instruction, marching competition fees, travel to local competitions, cost of prop construction and movement to locations, water at football games and at competitions, maintenance and repair of marching band school-owned instruments, purchase of new uniforms and color guard performance uniforms, etc.

How much are Marching Fees?

Marching fees total \$800 for the season plus the cost of any overnight trips related to competitions (BOA Clarksville). Please see the Financial Policy portion of the band handbook for details. A 2018 Expected Band Season cost breakdown has been included in this packet. This information is estimated and is provided as a guideline only.

What other expenses will I incur in marching band?

Each student will need to purchase marching shoes which are purchased through the Booster Club. In addition, there will be expenses for some meals, and supplies like lyres or flip folders, etc. In their first year, marching band members can purchase a Pride of Mill Creek duffle bag (details will be provided during band camp). Note: Bag and Shoes are a one-time purchase as they can be used each subsequent year if kept in good condition. There is also an additional cost for any overnight trips related to competitions (BOA Clarksville).

What are my fundraising opportunities to offset the costs of marching band?

We offer several fundraisers throughout the year to help offset the cost of marching band. For individual fundraisers, each student will receive 75% of the profits. We have a sheet fundraiser that will occur in the spring. There are also opportunities to work Gwinnett Stripers games throughout the summer and fall. The SCRIP program is a great, easy way to raise money for your student's ledger with the purchase of gift cards. Finally, we organize a sweat-a-thon where students send letters to long distance friends and family to raise money.

Color Guard members

Color Guard members will need to purchase performance shoes each year. In their first year, guard members will need to purchase a warm-up, flag bag and a Pride of Mill Creek duffle bag (details will be provided during band camp). This is a one-time purchase as the bag and warm-up can be used each subsequent year if kept in good condition.

Securing your position- A student will officially be considered a member of the Pride of Mill Creek only after they have made the initial deposit payment or after their family has had a financial aid meeting with the Booster Club Treasurer and President. Students who do not schedule this meeting or make the deposit can be added later only into shared positions.

Payment Dates-

Payment 1-	\$200 on May 1
Payment 2-	\$200 on June 1
Payment 3-	\$200 on July 9
Payment 4-	\$200 on August 1

2018 Alternate Payment Plan- Meetings will be held as needed. If you need to schedule an appointment, you can do so at the May 1 registration meeting or by contacting Juli Crawford at mcbbtreasurer@gmail.com.

Band Camp

What is Band Camp?

Band camp is the culmination of the creative process for the marching band show. Marching band camp is held on the campus of Mill Creek High School. Students will learn how to march, play while marching, play in the outdoor environment, and the importance of team membership to create a musical experience. Students will receive instruction from staff members in marching and playing in both individual and ensemble settings. Many bonds are formed in the marching band camp. Aside from marching and playing, ideals of trust, responsibility, teamwork, goal setting and achievement, and character are all components of the camp experience.

Band Camp traditionally takes place three weeks before school starts. Band camp is held on the campus of Mill Creek High School. All rehearsals at band camp are mandatory for all members. PLEASE PLAN SUMMER VACATIONS AND DOCTOR VISITS AROUND THE DATES OF BAND CAMP. STUDENTS WHO ARE EMPLOYED SHOULD SUBMIT THESE DATES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO INSURE TIME OFF.

Is Band Camp mandatory if I plan on being in the marching band?

Unless previously discussed with directors, yes, the marching band camp is mandatory. We will cover the equivalent of nearly six weeks of regular rehearsal hours in the two weeks of camp. The process of learning marching drill is dependent on the “dots” in the drill being filled. Without the charted marcher in attendance at any given time, it becomes a hardship to those around him/her to successfully march their drill. Likewise, promptness to all rehearsals is required, so we may all begin at the same time. When the rehearsal time is posted, please plan to arrive 15-20 minutes prior to be ready to begin at the given time. We also ask that unless already cleared in writing that all doctor appointments, unless an emergency, not be scheduled during band camp. Attendance and promptness will be documented at each rehearsal per handbook policies. Leadership members will notify the directors of tardiness and/or absence.

Will meals be provided during Band Camp?

Yes and No. Dinner will be provided each day to students on days when rehearsal is from 9:00am-9:00pm. We ask that students bring a lunch from home each day. Students will not be allowed to leave campus during their lunch break or at any time during camp hours.

What do I need to bring to camp each day?

You need to bring your well-maintained instrument. Please have the instrument in good playing condition for band camp. You will be spending a lot of time playing and poor conditions will not aid in your progress during the week. Please have valve oil and extra reeds, as well. If you will be using a school-owned instrument (percussion, sousaphone, marching baritone, etc.) you will be issued an instrument before the summer break.

Please plan to bring a water cooler full of ice water at the beginning of each rehearsal. Fill it up before you come to school! Everyone is expected to bring his or her own water. Do not plan on sharing! Water and sports drinks are recommended. Caffeine should be avoided when participating in outdoor activities. PREHYDRATION is a must! Remember that 8 glasses of water a day is for “normal” exertion. Students should increase water intake three days prior to band camp and should replace fluids every night during camp. Your name should be clearly marked on your water cooler, and EVERYTHING else that you bring to camp. Every year, we give DOZENS of coolers, shirts, shorts, etc. to Goodwill.

What should I wear to Band Camp?

T-shirts, shorts, and tennis shoes are the suggested attire for camp. Please remember that attire must be school appropriate and school dress code rules are in effect. Bare midriffs, cut-off T-shirts, bathing suit tops and T-shirts containing suggestive material or advertising/advocating drugs or alcohol will not be allowed. You will be asked to return home to change. Your feet are very crucial to your success as a marching member; therefore please wear athletic shoes that will be comfortable and allow you flexibility to move easily. Flip-flops, swimming shoes, and sandals are not allowed for any marching rehearsal including band camp. Students must wear shoes at all times while at camp. Stepping on a sharp object could potentially take you out of the show for the season. Please bring sunscreen, baseball caps, sunglasses and lots of water to drink. You will spend approximately 4 hours per day, minimum, in the sun. Be prepared and take care of yourself during these hours.

Will my student be supervised by adults, other than the staff during camp?

Parents are on hand during all rehearsals and meals to assist your student in all facets of the day.

What should my child eat during Band Camp?

Please see that your child eats a good breakfast each morning (preferably no dairy). They will start the day running and will use lots of physical energy during the morning rehearsal block. Many students who typically do not eat breakfast find this a difficult three hours and can become ill due to the lack of nutrition. We strongly encourage your student to eat all meals as well during camp and to avoid caffeine to help prevent dehydration.

Marching Band Season Details

Marching Band Sectionals- During the marching season, many section leaders will call sectionals as needed. These sectionals may be as often as once per week or simply called as needed to resolve issues of performance. The white board in the band room will list all sectionals for the coming week. Sectionals are never required, but it is important that students attend whenever possible.

Regular Rehearsal Schedule- Regularly scheduled rehearsals occur on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays after school begins. These rehearsals are required. Please see the attendance policy below for details on absences.

Additional Rehearsals- There are some additional rehearsals scheduled to provide extra time to learn drill and work on developing the show. These rehearsals are required and attendance is very important. These rehearsals should be considered when planning trips or SAT/ACT testing.

Competitions- We will attend three competitions this year. We will release the schedules for competition days as soon as we get itineraries, but expect for them to last the entire day.

Marching Band Shared Position System- To achieve a balanced instrumentation and to promote a high level of performance excellence, the Pride of Mill Creek Marching Band has students who share positions. Shared positions are determined by an audition during band camp. This audition will consist of students demonstrating both their marching and playing skills in rehearsals and sectionals. From this audition, students who are to share positions will be selected. All members who share positions are full members of the marching band. They will be issued uniforms and are expected to participate in all practices. They will perform in the stands at football games and in all parades.

Students who share positions will alternate competition performances throughout the year and will trade off or share the spot at football games. In the event of injury or illness to other members, or if another spot opens up in the drill, members who share positions may be given their own position- provided that he or she has passed off all music, attended all rehearsals, and can successfully perform the drill.

Volunteer Obligations- All families that are members of the marching band are expected to support, through their work, the activities of the band. All member families are expected to work one shift at our concession stand at a MCHS home football game. In addition, all families are expected to volunteer at other events hosted by the band such as [SAPA](#), [WGI](#), the Gwinnett County Exhibition and the DCI Show. Student members are not able to fulfill volunteer obligations during the marching band season (concessions, GCPS Exhibition), but student members are able to fulfill a requirement at DCI, SAPA or WGI.

Families wishing to opt out of these responsibilities may choose to “buy out” their shifts. Families that opt out will be assessed an additional \$75 for each required event as part of their dues. Missing a shift or not scheduling yourself for a shift will also result in a \$75 fee being assessed. Students can fulfill SAPA, WGI or DCI Show obligations.

In addition, please take advantage of the many other opportunities to get involved such as chaperoning, pit crew, committees, etc.

Color Guard

The Color Guard of the Pride of Mill Creek Band is a competitive performance group whose purpose is to provide visual enhancement to the marching band program. The color guard performs at all of the above mentioned activities. Membership is based on tryouts, which are held every spring for students in grades six through eleven with exceptions for younger students made on a case by case basis. Graduating senior members and/or officer candidates assist in the training sessions and tryouts. The Color Guard brings a great deal of pride, enthusiasm, and competitive success to the Pride of Mill Creek. More information about Color Guard can be obtained from the Color Guard Sponsor / Caption Head, Megan Phillips. Please e-mail Megan at mcguardinstructors@gmail.com for more information.

There are the two possible membership levels in the guard program.

High School Competition Members- Most high school students selected to be a part of the color guard will be a full member. High school students with no experience may be offered a position on the Spirit Guard (see below). All policies, schedules, and procedures contained in this document apply to all high school competition members.

Spirit Guard- Middle and elementary school students will be a member of the spirit guard. Some high school students with no experience may be selected for the Spirit Guard, or some high school students may choose to only participate at this level. This group is substantially different in commitment from the other levels of membership:

- This group will perform at home football games. They will have different choreography and drill than competition members that requires less rehearsal time. They will participate fully in the stands at home games.
- This group will wear different uniforms and shoes. Members are asked to pay a reduced uniform sitting fee. These students will be issued a show shirt and have the opportunity to purchase band bags and all other items offered to the competitive members.
- Members will be asked to fully attend all summer rehearsals through the first three days of band camp with policies the same as competition members. After the Wednesday of the first week of band camp, Spirit members will only attend afternoon and evening rehearsals at camp.
- During the normal rehearsal season, Spirit members will attend Monday rehearsals every week and Thursday rehearsals on weeks that end with a home football game. Spirit members are not required to attend Saturday practices during the season.

2018 Alternate Payment Plan- If you need to schedule an appointment, you can do so at the April 30th registration meeting or by contacting Juli Crawford at mcbbtreasurer@gmail.com

Policies

Attendance Policy

Absence affects performance and the success of performance-oriented activities, such as band, *depends* upon full participation. Each student's participation affects the group outcome, and each student plays a valuable role in this process. Attendance guidelines have been developed to support the learning process for both the student and the group. Attendance is related to both self-discipline and learning. If a student is not in rehearsal, he or she has missed that participatory portion of his or her educational experience and that experience cannot be made-up. A calendar of events is published well in advance for your planning. Students and their families are requested to plan appropriately when scheduling appointments, etc. so that rehearsals and performances are not missed. The following attendance policy applies to both the band class rehearsals and the extra-curricular rehearsals of the marching band, drumline and color guard.

Excused Absences- Excused absences will only be granted for certain unforeseen conflicts. Excused absences include illness, death in the family, an important religious observance, doctor's appointments, and potentially some other circumstances. ***Personal conflicts such as jobs, homework, etc. are not excused.*** If a student wishes to receive an excused absence, the student must speak to the director prior to the absence. Failure to do so will automatically result in the student's absence being unexcused. Submission of a request does not guarantee approval. In the event that a student must be absent due to an unforeseen emergency such as personal illness, **the student is required to speak with the director immediately upon their return to school** to inform him of the absence. If a student is well enough to attend class during the school day, the student is expected to attend rehearsal and will not be granted an "excused" status for missing the rehearsal without advance permission from a director. Students are expected to make up the time they miss from their absences. Section leaders lead "Horn Club" every Friday afternoon for any students to make up any material from time missed during the week. ***Students who do not make up missed time will not be allowed to perform until they have done so.*** This means that students who miss a Thursday rehearsal will generally not be allowed to perform on Friday.

Unexcused Absences- An unexcused absence is one that does not satisfy the requirements listed previously for excused absences. **An unexcused absence from a rehearsal will result in the student not being allowed to perform in the next performance.** An unexcused absence from a performance will result in the student forfeiting any awards that he or she would have been eligible for that year and may also alter his or her participation status in marching band. Two unexcused absences from rehearsals may possibly alter the student's participation status in the marching band. Any student who finds their participation level altered due to attendance issues or behavioral consequences will not be refunded or excused from any financial fees and responsibilities due for participation in the activities/events.

Promptness- The most important part of any band rehearsal occurs in the first five or ten minutes. It is during that time that, in addition to warming-up physically, the student will focus his or her mind into the group rehearsal process. Students must be present 10 minutes before the start of every rehearsal to participate in group stretching. Tardies also follow the same guidelines and excuse procedures listed above. Students who are tardy to rehearsal or leave early must make up that time following the same guidelines as listed for excused absences.

Conduct

Students are expected to demonstrate positive and cooperative behavior when associated with the bands of Mill Creek High School. When you are wearing a Mill Creek High School band uniform you are representing your school. Inappropriate or offensive behavior or language will not be tolerated. We represent ourselves, each other, and the school, and we strive to represent the *best* in high standards and traditions.

Specific Behavior Guidelines

1. All Gwinnett County Public Schools disciplinary guidelines are in effect at all band functions.
2. No use of alcohol, tobacco, or illicit drugs. Possession or use of any of these will result in disciplinary actions in accordance with school policy.
3. No abuse of school facilities or equipment. This includes uniforms, instruments, music, or the physical structures. Students will be charged for any damage to the above.
4. No unauthorized use of school instruments. A signed permission form must be on file for students to play school instruments.
5. Absolutely no hazing, bullying, or harassment of students.
6. No profanity will be tolerated.
7. No disrespect of authority. This includes all student leadership, administrators, teachers, staff, band parents, and anyone else connected with the program.
8. No one is permitted to leave designated areas without permission. A director or chaperone must know where you are at all times.

Students who do not abide by these guidelines may be subject to administrative referral and participation in extra-curricular events may be modified or suspended. Continued behavior issues or extreme matters may result in the student being dismissed from extra-curricular events.

In the Band Room

1. Students must be prompt and prepare for rehearsal in a positive manner (see attendance policy).
2. Over 200 students use the band room each day, please keep it clean and orderly. Trash cans are provided for your use. Instruments and music folders are to be kept only in the instrument storage located in the band room.
3. There is to be absolutely no food, drink, or gum in the band room - EVER!
4. Vandalism, use of school equipment, or other student's property without permission is not tolerated.

On a Bus

1. The bus driver's rules are always correct. Never argue with the bus driver.
2. Remain silent when someone is addressing the bus.
3. Music cannot be heard by anyone but you- no speakers.
4. Keep the bus clean- in words and in actions...
5. Do not change seats or stand up while the bus is in motion.
6. All students will ride the bus to the event. Students may ride home with a parent ONLY if a written note from the parent is given to the chaperone on the student's bus. We are responsible for you and must know your whereabouts at all times. Students that do go home with their parents must return their uniforms to school at the earliest possible time.

Marching Band Uniforms

Each student is responsible for care of their own uniform while it is being worn. Lost or damaged uniform parts must be replaced at your expense. Your uniform consists of the following:

- o Black MTX Shoes
- o Black Socks
- o Clean Black Gloves
- o Pants Provided by Band
- o White compression shirt with POMC logo. One is provided at the beginning of the season. No jewelry can be seen, except single stud earrings.
- o Ladies- hair in a sock bun, sprayed or gelled, at the top of their head. No colored headbands or hair ties allowed. Men- hair that can be seen sticking out of shako must be tucked or pulled back somehow.

The marching band uniform must be worn in its entirety in public at all times unless you are instructed to change by a band director or drum major. You may not unzip your coat, lower your bibbers, or take off your gauntlets unless instructed.

You must wear your entire uniform to perform. Prior to each performance, the student leaders will perform a dress inspection. Neatness and correctness of appearance will be assessed. This will include band T-Shirt underneath the jacket, black socks, cleanliness of gloves, shoes, and instruments. Students who do not pass inspection must correct all violations - possibly including the purchase of missing or soiled items - in order to perform.

Uniform Care

Hanging- It is absolutely essential that the uniforms be hung correctly to ensure that they remain in pristine condition. Please keep track of your uniform hanger as it is made to maintain the uniform's shape. **Do not use a plain hanger on your uniform.** Once you have hung your uniform correctly please return it to the uniform room. As you do so, make sure that it maintains its shape.

Cleaning- Our uniforms are made of polyester fabric. While they are washable, **no student should ever attempt to wash their own uniform.**

Financial Policy

Funds to support the Mill Creek Band Association's budget will generally come from two major sources: payments from the band members and fundraisers. Gifts and funds from other sources are also encouraged.

No student will be denied participation in the band program because of financial inability to make payments. A family in this situation should contact the MCBB treasurer and/or president to discuss this in confidence. The treasurer or president will work with the family to restructure the payment or to arrange participation in additional fund raising activities in lieu of payment. These arrangements must be made before the first payment is due or as soon as the hardship arises. Families are encouraged to create structured payment plans as needed.

Payments from Band Members and Their Families

Each marching band member and his or her family is requested to pay \$800 per year to finance the student activities. This payment includes expenses for band camp, music, instructors, equipment for the field show, and other expenses related to running the Booster Club.

This payment is to be paid in four installments. Please see the calendar portion of this packet for due dates and payment details. Payments can be brought to the school or mailed to MCBB, P.O. Box 1637, Dacula, GA 30019. Make checks payable to MCBB.

To attend band camp, students must be paid in full prior to check in, or have made arrangements for a payment plan. A student will be considered a member of the band after they have made the initial deposit. Students transferring into the Mill Creek school district and joining after marching band camp will pay \$600.00. This payment may be made in three monthly installments, with the first payment due the month after the student enters the program.

Fundraisers

Fundraisers will be used to raise the additional funds required to completely fund the band's budget. All parents and students are expected to participate in order to minimize the burden on each participant. Profits from all fundraisers will be split between the band's general fund and student's accounts. Each student's account will be credited 75% of all profits from fundraisers. This money will be applied against future band expenses, e.g. trips, future dues, banquet, honor band expenses, etc. Students on financial plans will have their full portion of fundraising profits applied against their outstanding balance.

Other Costs

Annually, it is necessary for participants in the band program to bear individual expenses in addition to that necessary to fund the Association's budget. These include but are not limited to GMEA events, honor bands, All-State, solo & ensemble, trips, gloves, lyres, flip folders and other supplies for marching band.

Refunds

Money will be refunded to students who are forced to withdraw from the marching band. The amount of the refund will be based solely on the time of withdrawal of a student. Students who withdraw before May 31st will receive a refund for all of the money they have contributed. Between May 31st and the start of camp, all money will be refunded minus the \$200 deposit. After camp, no money will be refunded.

Payments

Payments are expected on or before the established schedule dates. Reminders may be sent home to the family through the student. Payments for any band activity can be made from a student's account. Delinquent fees will be deducted from a student's account to fulfill outstanding band fee obligations. Delinquent fees are any moneys owed the band from past expenses, i.e. previous year's Band Fees or fees for extra activities like All-State Band. A \$30 fee will be charged for checks returned due to insufficient funds.

Band Trip Cost*

The costs of any trips the band may take are in addition to all other costs. To determine the cost per student of an anticipated trip, the band director, with advice and consent of the executive board, shall estimate the total cost of the trip. This total amount shall be divided by the number of students taking the trip to arrive at the per student cost. The Booster Club should provide a detailed listing of anticipated trip expenses to the students and parents in advance of the trip for approval.

**NOTE- Student's ledgers must be in good standing in order for student to participate in trip, banquets and other functions.*

2018 Expected Band Season Expenses
May not be inclusive of everything

	2018 Estimated	
Marching Band Annual Band Dues	\$ 800.00	
Shoes (Fee must be paid at time of fitting)	\$40.00	<i>Only if needed</i>
Event Obligation (Concessions, *SAPA, *WGI, *DCI Show)	\$ 75.00	<i>Assessed per event</i>
Band Physicals (Usually in May hosted by band)	\$20.00	<i>may use your physician</i>
Duffle Bag (Not mandatory but highly recommended)**	\$ 35.00	<i>See Note Below**</i>
Color Guard Annual Dues***	\$800.00	
Color Guard Uniform fitting and shoe Fee-Annual fee	\$115.00	
Spirit Guard Uniform fitting and shoe Fee-Annual fee	\$90.00	
Event Obligation (Concessions, *SAPA, *WGI, *Exhibition)	\$50.00	<i>Assessed per event</i>
Band Physicals (Usually in May hosted by band)	\$ 20.00	<i>may use your physician</i>
Warm-ups (Guard members with suits in good condition may use them)	\$ 80.00	
Flag Bag (<i>price may vary based on shipping costs</i>)	\$ 40.00	<i>HIGHLY RECOMMENDED</i>
Duffle Bag (Not Mandatory but highly recommended)**	\$ 35.00	<i>See Note Below**</i>
Not Mandatory		
Money for food at games and competitions	\$ 5- \$10	<i>depends on individual</i>
Souvenir Money	Varies	<i>depends on individual</i>
Annual Band Trips	Varies	See footnote
POMC Spirit Wear (Optional)		
Spirit Wear orders will take place immediately after the conclusion of band camp. None of these items are required.	Varies	

*SAPA- Southern Association for Performing Arts

*WGI-Winter Guard International

*DCI-Drum Corps International

*DCI Show will be held at Mill Creek on July 11

**This is the only Duffle bag allowed in the stands during any game or competition.

*** Winter Guard is a separate program with separate costs.