

Millard North High School

Mustang Bands

Freshman Information



Hello incoming Freshmen Band members & Parents!

We would like to be the first to welcome you to the Millard North Band Family! What a way to end the semester! We know it was most likely not easy for your middle schoolers. We were so looking forward to visiting the middle schools the past several months to answer questions for the students. This transition is traditionally one of the most difficult for students to make in their education. We want to be here to help!

Many of you have contacted us and we understand you have LOTS of questions about band in high school and what the upcoming summer holds in store. Our Leadership Team students have been attempting to contact 8th grade band students to not only help answer questions about band, but to ease fears and the uncertainty of what high school is about! And to be honest, at this point we just don't have answers because we still don't know what is happening moving forward. Once we hear from district administration and we can safely move ahead, we will let you know. It is most likely looking like the month of June will not happen. However, the important thing is that you all stay safe and that you keep in the loop with the MNHS Band Family!



About the Mustang Band Program...

The Millard North Band is an award-winning Class AA program that includes the participation of over 300 talented and well-rounded students. The group has a very strong reputation throughout the Midwest region for its excellence in Concert Bands, Marching Band, and Color Guard. The program is highly invested in a culture of inclusion, acceptance, discipline, commitment, and a high level of excellence. The students take great pride in holding themselves to high standards and performance level.

Our students represent a large, dynamic, highly-disciplined, and highly-regarded portion of the school population. The Mustang Band program includes: varsity athletes (including all fall sports), award-winning forensics competitors, National Merit Scholars, IB Diploma students, orchestra members, singers, AP and Honors students, robotics club, construction and welding students, artists, debate, journalism, cheerleaders, and just about any other end of the spectrum you can imagine! The students take pride in ALL areas in which they participate, and enjoy the successes of each of these programs!

Meet the Directors

Ryan Placek is in his 28th year of teaching and has been Director of Bands at Millard North since 2012. His current duties include co-conducting Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Concert Band, Marching Band, Jazz Ensembles, and Pep Bands. He also teaches courses in Introductory Music Theory, AP Music Theory, and History of Popular Music in America. Mr. Placek earned his BME from UNL and his MA in Music Curriculum & Supervision from UNK.



Craig Mathis has been the Assistant Band Director at Millard North since 2013. His duties at Millard North include co-conducting the Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Concert Band, Marching Band, Stage Band, and Pep Bands. In addition to his responsibilities at Millard North, Mr. Mathis is the Band Director at Ezra and Montclair Elementary Schools in Millard. Mr. Mathis is a graduate of Millard North High School and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

FOR THE PARENTS...

Get Involved

With our growing numbers, the time is right to help our outstanding students! It takes an entire village and our children need your help! Our band students need food, bus chaperones, uniform helpers, equipment movers, truck drivers, concession workers, builders, concert reception servers, March-a-thon help, just to name a few. Don't hesitate to visit the website and click on the volunteer tab for future opportunities to GET INVOLVED and join the fun!



What do I need to know?



1. **We handle most of our communications with our band family via email.**

It is crucial that you sign up to receive our informational emails on our website- www.mnband.net - under the ["Join Email List"](#) link on the homepage. Our outstanding website is full of information! It features schedules, calendar, announcements, twitter feed, and a host of other information. You can also follow us on Twitter [@MNHS_band](#) and Instagram [@MNHS_band](#).

2. **Summer schedule is included in this letter...BUT still uncertain.**

Varsity Competition Band members include 10th-12th grades and a few 9th graders selected for the competitive group along with the auditioned Varsity Color Guard members. Most Freshmen should check out the **JV Football Band** schedule. JV Percussion also is listed in the rehearsal schedule.

3. **Everyone marches during 1st quarter – even if you are in freshman Concert Band.**

Millard North has two Marching Bands: "Varsity Competition Marching Band" is primarily for sophomores, juniors and seniors. This is our competitive marching band. The other is called "Concert Band" or also referred to as "JV Football Band" – this is essentially our freshman band (but also includes a few upperclassmen). Both bands march during first quarter. Most freshmen will be registered for "Concert Band" for the year. You will also occasionally see reference to a "9-12 Band". This is the combined JV Football Band and Varsity Competition Marching Band (all band students).

4. **The Mustang Band program is one of the largest and most competitive in the region.**

Your support of our students is crucial! Please consider the following:

- ✎ Ensure your student's instrument is in proper working order and that they have all the accessories they need. Please have instruments serviced, cleaned, and adjusted!
- ✎ Consider upgrading your student's instrument. Most of our high school students have upgraded to intermediate or professional level instruments. As a student grows, they often outgrow what a beginner instrument can do. Please ask a band director if you are interested in upgrading.
- ✎ Most of our students take private lessons on their instrument. Freshman Concert Band will have around 80 students this year. It is impossible to provide the kind of one-on-one feedback in the classroom setting. Our best musicians all take privately. Please contact the directors if you have questions about lessons.



5. **There are costs associated with participating in our amazing program.**

Many of these are "one time" costs for freshmen who need consumables such as band polo, marching shoes, show shirt, gloves, etc. We also include an "ETM" cost (Equipment/Transportation/Meals) which helps to purchase bus transportation for the year, meals at band camp and other times, guest staff and clinicians, and equipment needs for the year.

Cost information will be disseminated before band camp. Any payments can be paid all at one time, or on a payment plan.



Other Questions...

Orlando Trip - Spring Break 2021

We are on hold with trip payments for next spring as of right now. We will inform you when we will begin payments and when we will resume with the process after administrative approval.

Summer Band/Band Camp

We are not sure as of yet when we will be able to meet and rehearse in the summer. When the administration notifies us, we will let our band family know as soon as safety and logistics can be determined.

Varsity Competition Band Auditions

As of right now, we are unsure about incoming freshmen auditions. We may not have any spots available due to the large number of returning members. If anything changes, we will notify you.

School Instrument Rental

As of now, we will not be renting out any instruments until further instructions from the district.



Did you know...

- ? The Millard North "Mustang Band" program is the largest and most diverse co-curricular activity in the school.
- ? The Mustang Band won the NSBA State Marching Championship in 2016 & 2019 and were state Runners-up in 2017. The band has been a top 5 finisher at state for over 10 years now.
- ? The Mustang Band program has received the **NSBA Academic Achievement Award** the past SEVEN years in a row for having an overall combined GPA of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale.
- ? The band program consistently includes All-State athletes, Academic All-State students, National Merit Scholars, and a large percentage of the IB graduates in the Mustang Band. Many band students have also earned perfect scores on both the SAT and ACT tests within the past year.
- ? The Millard North Music Program was awarded the Nebraska Music Education Association Exemplary Program Award this year - one of only EIGHT schools to EVER receive this award!

Millard North Mustang Bands 2020

Concert Band/JV Football Band

Summer Schedule



*PLEASE NOTE PERCUSSION MAY HAVE THEIR OWN ADDITIONAL SCHEDULES

**COLORGUARD IS CONSIDERED PART OF VARSITY BAND

JUNE - - - - - **MOST LIKELY WILL NOT OCCUR!**

Tue-9	5-6pm	Instrument rental night for anyone who needs a school instrument
	6-7:30pm	ALL 9-12 BAND STUDENTS REHEARSAL (ALL woodwinds & brass)
	5-7pm	JV Percussion
Tue-16	5-7pm	JV Percussion
Tue-23	5-7pm	JV Percussion
Tue-30	NO REHEARSAL THIS WEEK! Have a safe and happy 4th!	

JULY

Tue-7	6-7:30pm	ALL 9-12 BAND STUDENTS REHEARSAL (ALL woodwinds & brass)
	5-7pm	JV Percussion
Tue-14	5-7pm	JV Percussion
Wed-Fri 22-24	8am-4pm	ALL 9-12 BAND - <i>BAND CAMP!</i>
Tue - Aug 4	6-8pm	JV uniform fittings
Mon - Aug 10		School begins for Freshmen

