

Students are expected to provide, at their expense, the appropriate instruction books as determined by the music department, as outlined in the music curriculum. The school district will provide band music.

Attendance Requirements

Attendance requirements for all performing band and choral groups shall be as follows:

1. Students are expected to participate to the full extent in any group of which they are a member. Each instrumental and vocal ensemble will have specific attendance guidelines that are appropriate for the level of the group.
2. Working is no excuse for absence from rehearsal or performance.

Vocal And/Or Instrumental Performances During The Instructional Day

During any two (2) year cycle, a total of twenty (20) instructional days may be scheduled, with no more than ten (10) instructional days occurring in one (1) year per instructor. Each music teacher cannot be out more than ten (10) instructional days in one (1) year.

Membership In School Bands

Beginning Band –

The beginning band shall be made up of fourth grade students from the beginning classes. The director will designate the time and place of rehearsal.

The band will organize in January and will function until the elementary spring concert at the beginning of May.

Elementary Band –

The elementary band shall be made up of fifth grade students who have one (1) year of training or the equivalent and who are able to play the music selected. Outstanding fourth grade students who meet the musical requirements will also be members. This band will meet weekly after school from September to the spring concert in May. The director will designate time and place of rehearsal, and requirements will be posted.

Middle School Instrumental Music Program –

The Feaser Middle School has a band and string ensemble consisting of students in grades six through eight. Membership is based on students completing Level I on their instrument.

All students involved in the program receive instruction one (1) day per school cycle from ten (10) to fifteen (15) minutes. Students receive report card results on their instruction and band or string ensemble membership.

The band and string ensemble perform at least two (2) school concerts per school year. The band also is involved in marching activities during the fall months, including parades and other outdoor musical events. There is also opportunity for students to be involved in optional events, such as solo and ensemble recitals, Dauphin County events and District Seven events.

Other musical groups are added depending on interest, such as Jazz band or orchestra, if instrumentation allows. Jazz band membership is by invitation from the director. Preference is given to eighth grade musicians followed by the seventh and sixth grade if necessary.

A band front exists for fall events plus some opportunities during the school year, such as concerts and basketball games. Tryouts are held in late May for the following school year and are open to any students in grades five through seven at that time.

High School Marching Band –

The high school marching band shall consist of students in grades nine, ten, eleven and twelve who can meet the set requirements and maintain the standards of the organization. This band plays for all home and away football games, parades and various activities both in and out of town throughout the year. Students are expected to uphold the guidelines in the Middletown Area High School Student Handbook at all times.

The school district will provide band uniforms for all band members. The individual student is expected to provide the necessary care to maintain a clean and neat appearance. Any lost or damaged uniform or uniform parts will be charged to the assigned student.

All students will ride to and from events via a school bus, except when students bring notes from parents/guardians requesting permission to provide parental transportation.

High School Concert Band –

This band will be composed of students in grades nine, ten, eleven and twelve. The students in this band must meet requirements set by the director (sight reading test, knowledge of scales, etc.). The concert band will play at least two (2) concerts per season – December and May.

High School Jazz Band –

A high school Jazz band will be organized from November to May. This band will serve as a workshop unit to assist interested students in learning to read and interpret standard dance band literature. Stage band will be limited in number for reasons of balance and standard instrumentation.

Ensembles –

Ensembles will exist whenever possible and will meet after school hours. These groups will be available for civic functions, clubs, etc.

Marching Band Membership

All students entering the high school band program will be members of the Middletown Area High School Band including both the symphonic and marching units. Exceptions to inclusion in the marching unit shall be:

1. All fall school sanctioned athletics.
2. Cheerleaders.
3. Medical excuse by a physician.

The above students excused for football games are encouraged to perform at other events such as parades and special events, unless medically excused.

Class Lessons

Class lessons will be available to every student in the entire system, regardless of whether the student makes one of the school bands. All students who receive lessons will perform in at least one (1) appropriate ensemble.

Lessons will be thirty (30) minutes in length (one-half period) and will be offered on a one-per-cycle basis. Section leaders will have private instruction; other students will have semi-private when possible, with the exception of beginners.

Private Lessons

Private lessons are not required but are encouraged on all levels.

Private lessons are available from staff members at a rate agreed upon by the music staff and are to be arranged with the instructor, at a time other than school time.

School facilities shall be available to the staff for private instruction. No teacher outside our own staff will be permitted use of the Middletown Area School District facilities for private instruction without the knowledge and approval of the Superintendent.

Band Front

A band front will exist only with the Feaser Middle School and Senior High School bands.

A student need not play an instrument to be a member of the band front.

The band director and/or any committee s/he chooses shall select the band front at both the middle and high schools.

A band front student must try out each season for the position.

Choral Organizations

Elementary –

Third, fourth, and fifth grade Chorus: This is a non-graded group that will perform two (2) times per school year. Dauphin County and PMEAs events are available beginning at the fourth grade level.

Middle School –

This is a graded group for students in the middle school. Additional select groups are available to students through the audition process.

High School –

This is a graded group for students in the high school. Students will earn 1.0 credit per school year. Students are placed into ensembles based on the results of the audition and vocal balance desired.

Band Boosters Association/Choral Booster Association

This organization shall consist of both mothers, fathers, and interested parties concerned with Middletown's band or choral programs.

The Band and Choral Boosters will exist for the sole purpose of lending financial support to the band organizations.

The High School Band Boosters will meet on the second Tuesday of each month (except July and December) and will meet in the high school cafeteria.

The Middle School Band Boosters normally meet during the months of August, September, and May. Additional meetings are scheduled as needed.

Academic Credit

Every playing member of the high school band and chorus in grades nine through twelve will receive 1.0 credit per school year, providing the member completely meets all the requirements of the program.

All credits accumulated may be used toward graduation.

Grades will be issued at the conclusion of each nine (9) weeks for high school and middle school performing groups.

Student Assistants

Student officers can be elected for high school performing groups at the discretion of the music teacher in charge of the ensemble, with approval by the building principal and/or Superintendent:

1. **Uniform Managers (2)** – Assist the director in caring for the uniform and for clothing inventory and records, in checking in and out all clothing and accessories, and in maintaining and using the emergency kit when traveling to parades, games, etc.
2. **Drum Major(s), Color Guard Captains** – These student assistants help the director with the supervision and training of the band and auxiliary units of the marching band. Band and band front members can audition in April (after the band front tryouts) for the positions of Drum Major(s) and Color Guard Captains.

Summer Band Camp

Summer band camp shall be an official school function under the control of the Board.

The high school band director shall be in charge of and responsible for band camp, all assistants, staff members, chaperones, band members and other participants.

Payment And Reimbursement

The district will pay membership fees for PMEA.

The district will pay registration fees and transportation costs for band, orchestra, and chorus festivals associated with PMEA or county, regional, district, and state level festivals sponsored by PMEA.

The district will pay the cost of student transportation to approved musical group performances in the Harrisburg area.

Biennial trips to music festivals outside of a five (5) hour driving radius require Board approval.