

# Welcome to the Millard West Band Boosters!



Everything you need to know now  
that your student is a  
Millard West Wildcat Band Student

This handbook has been prepared to give you an overview of the Millard West Band Boosters program and all it has to offer you and your student. The information provided here is a general overview of the Millard West Band Boosters and Millard West Band program, and is subject to change.

**Welcome to the Band!**

We are excited you are part of the Wildcat Band. We anticipate yet another successful competition season. Your student will be involved with a fellow group of dedicated students who are committed to excellence. This year will be full of activities and challenges that are sure to BE INCREDIBLE.

This handbook was prepared to answer some of the most frequently asked questions about band. We hope that you and your student will have an exciting and fun experience this year.

### **Did you know that the Millard West Band ....**

- has been competing since 1995
- consists of more than 170 talented students
- is a vital and important part of Millard West High School - representing the school at sporting events, regional and national band competitions, as well as providing numerous performance concerts during the school year
- has competed in regional and national competitions and won awards for superior performance, showmanship, leadership, drum line, drum major, and color guard
- consistently has students in the All-State Honor Band
- has students competing in solo and ensemble competitions throughout the year

### **Overview of the Band Program**

The Millard West Band provides your student with the opportunity to experience music performance through multiple ensembles. The students participate in marching band, a concert band, and have the opportunity to audition for many small ensembles. Here is an overview of some of the many bands offered at Millard West.

*Varsity Marching Band* – The Millard West Marching Band is a precision drill and musical band whose focus is competition. The band will travel during the months of September and October to regional marching competitions. Some years the band will travel to national competitions

as well. The band will perform in parades such as Millard Days. The Marching Band also provides pregame, half time and Pep Band entertainment at all home Millard West football games. While all students participate in Marching Band, only varsity students (10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade and select 9<sup>th</sup> graders) travel to compete.

*Freshman Marching Band* – The Freshman Marching Band returned last year and will perform in the half-time show of the last home football game of the season. Freshmen are encouraged to become pit crew members for the varsity band and travel along to help the band at competitions. Freshmen march with the varsity band in parades and the pre-game show at football games, and are a part of the Pep Band.

*Color Guard* – Color Guard is part of our Marching Band and visually enhances the marching show. Color Guard incorporates a variety of props such as flags, rifles, sabres and jazz dance into the marching show to create the visual spectacle. Color Guard is open to all Millard West students in grade 9 through 12. Band students who are interested in Color Guard may also audition.

*Concert Band* – The Concert Band is comprised of freshman and the focus of this group is on advancing their instrumental technique, music history, and music literacy. This group will perform both modern winds band literature and classic literature.

*Symphonic Band* – The Symphonic Band is comprised of students in grades 10 through 12 and select 9<sup>th</sup> graders. The symphonic band will focus on advanced instrumental technique, music history, and music literacy. This group will perform both modern winds band literature and classic literature.

*Wind Ensemble* – Wind Ensemble is an audition band comprised of students in grades 10 through 12 and select 9<sup>th</sup> graders. The Wind Ensemble focuses on advanced instrumental technique, music history, and music literacy. This group will perform advanced modern winds band literature and classic literature.

*Jazz Band* – Jazz band is an audition band that meets after school and is open to students in grade 9 through 12. The Jazz Bands compete in a number of competitions throughout the year. This group is extracurricular.

*Percussion Ensemble* – Percussion Ensemble is open to students in grade 9 through 12. The percussion ensemble will perform at selected performances throughout the year. This group is extracurricular.

*Pep Band* – All students participate in Pep Band. Students are assigned to the green or the black band. The Pep Bands play at home basketball games, district basketball and volleyball games and school functions as requested by administration.



## **Who are the Millard West Band Boosters? (MWBB)**

All parents of current band students are automatically members of the Millard West Band Boosters and we anticipate you will want to be involved with the band program. We are all about support – support of our kids, the band directors and the overall band program at Millard West.

An executive committee oversees the MWBB activities and monthly meetings that ALL BAND PARENTS ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND. (See event calendar section for dates & times and for this year's list of officers and contact information.)

## **The Mission of the Millard West Band Boosters**

To support the Millard West High School Band through physical, logistical, and monetary means, while fostering an atmosphere of high educational standards, socialization, and cooperation between the

students, community, staff, and all supporters of the Millard West Band programs.

## **What Do the Millard West Band Boosters Do?**

### **1. Communication and Promotion**

One of our main goals is to keep YOU informed of what is happening in band throughout the year. Here are some of the ways that you can expect to receive communications from the band office and the MWBB.

- The band office publishes a calendar for the upcoming year that lists all band events. These dates are tentative and can change. Every effort will be made to notify parents and students of date changes as early as possible. Please do not schedule conflicts for these dates.
- MWBB Communication emails – The Band Boosters use email as its primary communication. Emails are sent during the school year and during the summer practice season to notify you of current events. Please make sure that you send an email to [MWBANDBOOSTERS@cox.net](mailto:MWBANDBOOSTERS@cox.net) if your email address changes. If you are not receiving regular email messages from [MWBANDBOOSTERS@cox.net](mailto:MWBANDBOOSTERS@cox.net) please be sure to let us know!
- MWBB Parents Handbook (this document!)
- Prior to every competition, the Director of Bands will give each student an itinerary for the day of competition. Your student should bring that home approximately three days before the competition. Changes to the calendar may and do occur. Every effort is made to notify you as soon as possible of any date changes in the calendar.
- Millard West Band Website – <http://www.mwwildcatband.org/>  
Bookmark this website and refer to it often. There is lots of great information on the site. Information from both the Band Department and the Band Boosters is posted here frequently. You can find calendars, event schedules, event updates, photos from past competitions, register for fund-raising events, Band Booster meeting schedule, minutes, and

more. If you have ideas for additions to the website, please let us know.

## **2. Volunteer Support**

The Millard West Band needs many dedicated volunteers throughout the year. There are many opportunities to volunteer. Everyone can find a spot to fit their particular talents and time schedule. We encourage you to volunteer for the band. It is a great way to get know other parents and to be with our awesome students. Here are just some of the opportunities available:

- ♪ Marching Band Camp
- ♪ Uniform - Check-Out, Fittings and Alterations
- ♪ Water Tent and First Aid Station
- ♪ Bus Trip Chaperones
- ♪ Equipment Transportation/Truck Drivers
- ♪ Pit Crew
- ♪ Spirit Wear Sales
- ♪ Concessions workers
- ♪ Concert receptions
- ♪ Family Picnic and Marching Season Celebration
- ♪ Fundraising assistance



## **3. Being a Band Booster**

This is one of the easiest parts of being a band parent. It's easy to show your Wildcat spirit by buying and wearing Band Booster wear. Cheer for the band by attending home games and joining us on road trips for band competitions. Take pictures and share them with our webmaster! Other ideas? Feel free to share them with us - we always love new ones.



#### **4. Raising Funds for the Band**

One of our most important efforts is supporting the Marching Band activities through our various fund-raising efforts. Maintaining a competitive marching band requires a significant investment. Below is a snapshot of the major costs that the Band Boosters underwrite.

Freshman & Varsity Band Camps	\$4,500.00	Adjunct Instructional Staff
Marching Band Show	\$3,700.00	Additional Bus Expenses
	\$2,000.00	Color Guard Uniforms
	\$2,000.00	Drum Major Camp
	\$4,000.00	Drill Writer – Field Show
	\$1,700.00	Color Guard – Field Show
	\$1,000.00	Adjunct Marching Staff
	\$5,275.00	Additional Show

Expenses

In addition to these items, we assist with the purchase of equipment and supplies throughout the year as requested by the staff of the band department.

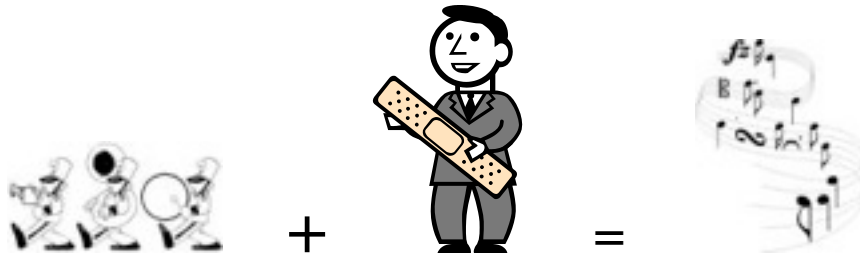
Each year a budget is defined by the Executive Board, reviewed with the membership of the Booster Club and voted on. A treasurer's report is given at every Booster Club meeting.

Since none of us likes selling items to our neighbors, the Band Boosters have developed some very creative fundraising opportunities.

Please get involved with these fundraisers and have fun with your fellow band parents while helping the band.

**Batter Up at the College World Series:** Boosters and students (age 16 and over) join in the excitement of one of Omaha's largest, longest running sporting events, the NCAA Men's College World Series. We operate our own mini-business selling hotdogs, peanuts, and nachos to the throngs of hungry and thirsty baseball fans who attend this 10-day event at TD Ameritrade Stadium. This event is generally the third and fourth weeks of June. In addition, we have on-going opportunities to work a concession stand at other TD Ameritrade events.

**Band-Aid:** All families are encouraged to contribute \$100 to Band-Aid to help support the activities of the Booster Club. This money goes directly back to the students through additional instruction by adjunct staff, supplies, equipment and refreshments for special celebrations. Without this contribution from each family the MWBB cannot provide these items that are instrumental to our program of excellence here at Millard West.



**March-a-thon:** This exciting event was started in the fall of 2009 as a fundraiser and practice for the 2010 Tournament of Roses® Parade. Pre-march pledges and donations are collected as the band marches approximately 10 miles through the neighborhoods of Millard West! Many families choose to entertain friends and families by hosting a Lawn Concert when the band marches by.

**Cans for the Band:** Do not throw those aluminum cans away! Throw them inside our CANPAK truck located in the school parking lot on the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend of each month. Some students and families ask their friends, neighbors and relatives to save their cans, too. What a great way to recycle to save the planet and help the b a n d . This is a YEAR-ROUND fund raising effort!



**Homecoming Tailgate Party:** Football and Homecoming means tailgating, and the Band Boosters help the MW Wildcat fans do it right while helping the band earn money. Each year at the Homecoming game we host a tailgate party at Buell Stadium with a local restaurant. The boosters help with set up and serving, so mark the date and come hungry!

**Hy-Vee Receipts:** Another easy way for every family and their friends to help the band. When you shop at Hy-Vee save your Hy-Vee Cash Register Receipts. Each year, from approximately September through December, Hy-Vee will give us \$1 for every \$150 of sales receipts turned in from any Omaha or Council Bluffs Hy-Vee grocery store up to a maximum of \$2,000. So, we hope when you buy your gas, groceries, medications, and flowers you'll think of Hy-Vee and SAVE those receipts for the band!

**Spirit Wear:** As mentioned earlier, we offer a variety of "Millard West Band" Spirit Wear items, including t-shirts, sport shirts, stadium jackets, sweatshirts, hats and more. It's a great way for band families and friends to show their support of the band – and stand out in the crowd at football games and competitions. Look for our Spirit Wear booth at the Band Camp Family Picnic. You can also check out our great supply of items by visiting the Spirit Wear section of our Web site. Many of these items also make great gifts for your band student on his or her birthday or for the holidays.

**Other Opportunities:** The old saying goes...."success isn't a matter of luck, as much as it is being prepared for an opportunity". Other fun, fund-raising opportunities become available to the band on a periodic or sporadic basis. We hope you'll always be OPEN to trying new and different ways to support the band.

So – the most important thing to do to help the band raise money throughout the year is:

1. Make sure your email address is up to date.
2. Read your email and respond to as many fund-raising opportunities as you can.
3. Attend the Booster meetings and stay informed about the band budget and how our efforts help the band.
4. Share ideas you might have for fund-raising with our Fund-raising Vice President or Band Booster officers.

## **5. Water for Band Students**

Staying well hydrated is very important for the students when they are marching. Marching is physically demanding and the uniforms can become hot. Even during rehearsals, the students need to ensure that they drink plenty of fluids. The Band Boosters provide water stations during rehearsals and after each field competition to keep them well hydrated. **Your student should always bring a full water container to rehearsal and to competitions.**



## **6. Important TERMS and Information for Band Parents**

Some band terms seem so obvious to the veterans, but can make a new parent's head spin. Here is a glossary of some commonly used terms:

**Varsity Band:** Marching Band comprised of 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade students. Some 9<sup>th</sup> grade students will be used to fill some necessary instrument spots.

**Freshman Band:** 9<sup>th</sup> grade students who are not participating in Varsity band.

**Mass Band:** ALL band students 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. The mass band performs in parades, at football pregame shows and as a pep band.

**Pit Crew:** Group of parents and 9<sup>th</sup> grade students who help the varsity band move frontline instruments and props during competitions. They will move it from school all the way to the field and back.

**Frontline:** Percussion instrumental group that performs with the marching band but does not march. The instruments are located at the front line of the competition field.

**Freshman Band Camp:** (mandatory attendance for ALL band students in grade 9) – This week is devoted to incoming freshman band students. Students learn marching basics, meet other band students, form friendships, and have lots of fun.

**Varsity Band Camp:** (mandatory attendance for students in grade 10 - 12, and those 9<sup>th</sup> graders in Varsity Band) – This week is devoted to the students learning this year's half-time & competition show, as well as a review of marching basics.

**Uniform Check-Out/Fittings/Care:** Occurs during band camp. Uniforms remain at school in the uniform room and are checked out prior to all performances including concerts/competitions/football games. Uniforms must be returned to school following the performance and must not be taken home. The band boosters assist with uniform check in/out, and many hands are needed to make this process quick and smooth.

## **7. Your 2011/2012 MW Band Booster Executive Committee**

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