

The holiday concert is on **Monday, December 5th**, featuring all of the concert bands at Memorial. The concert begins at 7:00 p.m. so don't be late! It's the perfect, relaxing break from all the holiday craziness.



New Instrument for the Holidays or New Year?

If you are considering updating that beginner instrument for your hardworking band student, please know that Mr. Dasher or Mr. Luginbill would be happy to help you make a good musical AND economical decision. Give them a call or an e-mail!

Pep Band Begins!

Who plays in Pep Band?

How do I know when I play?

Pep Band has begun. Your son or daughter has been placed into a specific pep band, and they will be responsible for five games. If they can't make it to one of their games, all they will have to do is find a sub in their instrument group, and they will get credit for the game. Schedules are posted in the band room and will be posted on the band web page too.

Freshmen do not follow this schedule. Instead they are scheduled for their own two games. The pep schedule is printed in this newsletter.

Keeping your instrument safe

Is your instrument safe from theft?

Our band directors make sure to record the serial number of all instruments purchased through the band program. This simple step greatly increases the chance of retrieving stolen property. Protect your investment by taking a few minutes to record the serial number of your purchased instrument.

President's Corner

Greetings to all band students and parents!

It is hard to believe the holiday season is upon us.

Now that we are well into the school year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the wonderful volunteers who made our fall band season a success. Band parents were very busy with football concessions, the tailgate party, and Essentially Eau Claire, all of which would not have been a success without the help and support of our great parents. I would also like to thank our awesome students and directors for all of their fantastic performances which accompanied each of our fundraising events. So, a sincere THANK YOU to each and every one of you; without you, the Memorial Band Program would not be what it is today!



In this season of giving, I would like to challenge each of you to volunteer. Your band student is benefiting from a music program that is supported by the MHS Band Parent Organization, which relies on parent volunteers. Whether big or small, a commitment of your time is greatly appreciated. Throughout this newsletter, there are many volunteer opportunities available to you. Please contact the chairperson of any event you are interested in, myself, or email kkway2239@gmail.com and let us know how you would like to help.

Looking ahead, we have a very busy spring. The Pops Concert, Evening of Jazz, Thrift Sale, and the Solo/Ensemble Festival will be keeping us very busy.

Happy Holidays!

Jennifer Meyer

MHS Band Parent Organization President

jenmeyer@centurytel.net

Volunteer Openings Available

Volunteer opportunities are always available to interested parents of band students.

Whether big or small, a commitment of your time is always appreciated. At this time the board is in need of:

- Snack Coordinator: Coordinate/deliver snacks to the band department on a few select days throughout the school year
- Nominating Committee: help us recruit new board members as necessary.
- Website Coordinator: somebody with website experience, willing to work on and maintain a site for the band program
- Solo/Ensemble Festival: Work with Mr. Dasher and the Choir department to coordinate site volunteers and meals for the judges and directors. We have the list of band parents; you just need to schedule.

2012-13 School Year:

Evening of Jazz co-chairs

2013-14 School Year:

Uniform Committee Chairpersons
Concession Committee Chairpersons
Thrift Sale Committee Chairpersons

If you are interested in chairing a committee or event, working with the current chairperson is a great way to "learn the ropes". Please contact Jen Meyer at jenmeyer@centurytel.net or the chairperson of a committee you are interested in with any questions.

Pep Bands

It's been an exciting fall and I can't believe we're coming up on Christmas already. Marching season was a lot of fun and I hope everyone got out to see the show. Here are a couple of reminders to stay in touch with the Band program. Most of the communications that I make have been going through Skyward. Skyward is a great tool to stay up to date on your kid's academic life so if you're not signed up you're missing out. We also have a Facebook page. Just do a search for "Memorial High School Band Program" and you'll find it. Lastly, our web page has been a great tool. Check it out at <http://www.mhsmusic.net/band/>



2011-2012 Pep Band Schedule

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Day:</u>	<u>Event:</u>	<u>Location:</u>	<u>Time:</u>	<u>Band:</u>
Dec. 6th	Tuesday	BBB / Chi Hi	MHS	6:45	A
Dec. 9th	Friday	GBB / Hudson	MHS	6:45	B
Dec. 16th	Friday	G-Hock / Mosinee	Hobbs	6:15	A
Dec. 20th	Tuesday	B-Hock / River Falls	Hobbs	6:15	B
Jan. 3rd	Tuesday	BBB / Onalaska	MHS	6:45	A
Jan. 10th	Tuesday	B-Hock / North	Hobbs	6:15	B
Jan. 10th	Tuesday	BBB / River Falls	MHS	6:45	Frosh
Jan. 17th	Tuesday	GBB / Medford	MHS	6:45	Frosh
Jan. 19th	Thursday	B-Hock / Wausau	Hobbs	6:15	A
Jan. 20th	Friday	BBB / North	MHS	6:45	B
Jan. 24th	Tuesday	B-Hock / New Rich	Hobbs	6:15	A
Jan. 26th	Thursday	GBB / Chi Hi	MHS	6:45	B
Jan. 27th	Friday	BBB / Hudson	MHS	6:45	South
Feb. 16th	Thursday	BBB / Rice Lake	MHS	6:45	Delong
Feb. 21st	Tuesday	GBB //Onalaska	MHS	6:45	A
Feb. 23rd	Thursday	GBB / North	MHS	6:45	B

State Tournaments

Boy's Hockey Mar. 1-3

Boy's Basketball Mar. 15-17

Girl's Basketball Mar. 22 -24

**You are responsible for the games you are assigned.
You need five games, so you get one freebie where you won't need to find a sub.
All other games please find a sub in your instrument group if you can't make it.**

State Tournament Band members will be decided by amount of individual games played.

From Mr. Luginbill

Freshman Bands Busy!

Pep Games Scheduled, Spring Trip Plans

MHS frosh bands are off and running! We have already played one parade and one marching band concert. By the time you receive this newsletter, we will be well on our way to our first “sit down” concert on December 5th. The freshmen had a lot to learn with a new cadence, a new marching style, new pep tunes, and now, new concert music! They are doing really well as a group and should have a great year.



The frosh bands will play at two varsity basketball games this winter: **Tuesdays, January 10th & January 17th.**

Dress is the official Old Abe Band t-shirt and jeans. We arrive at 6:30 via Door 19 in the band area.

We walk down to the game gym together, and all band members get in free. We usually learn about a dozen songs and we play pre-game tunes, “On Memorial” and the “National Anthem.” We stay and play at halftime. Once the half is completed, we return to the band room. At that point the band room is locked, and there are two options: students may go home or go back to the game. Half usually ends around 8:30 or so; games usually end about 9:15.

*Also, the freshmen will be getting info in the near future about the annual trip to Minneapolis scheduled for **Jan. 13-14.** The cost is usually about \$120 and includes bus, hotel, and this year a ticket to see “The Lion King” at the Orpheum. Expect to hear more about the annual frosh trip soon!*

Jazz Information

Jazz news for parents

Essentially Eau Claire A Success!

The 1st Annual Essentially Eau Claire concert was held Friday, October 21st. All proceeds from this concert were designated to support the Eau Claire Area School District’s middle school instrumental programs. Memorial’s band and orchestra students were able to spend a fantastic week working with Grammy nominated jazz musician Geoffrey Keezer. We are proud to announce we were able to donate \$2000 to each middle school’s instrumental music programs.

Jazz Information for Early 2012

Jazz I will do their annual Elementary School tour on January 6th. They play and talk about the jazz program to young aspiring musicians. This is a fun event for both ages!

Jazz I students/parents: The Essentially Ellington recording sessions are in January. Dates and times will be determined in the next few weeks.

Winter Jazz Concert

On January 30 at 7p.m. all Memorial jazz ensembles will be performing in the Memorial auditorium.



Frequently Asked Questions

Band Tryout Information

People often ask, *How do students get into the top bands at Memorial?* Answer: *Practice, practice, practice! That's the short answer anyway. The longer answer is as follows: any student with band experience is allowed to be in an upper level band at Memorial. The freshmen automatically are placed in one of the two frosh bands. At the end of the 9th grade year (and every spring after that), the students may sign up for the Eagle Band OR audition for the Concert Band or Old Abe Wind Ensemble. Old Abe Wind Ensemble is traditionally a group of musicians who play technically more challenging music and is predominantly juniors and seniors. The Concert Band consists of 10th, 11th, and 12th graders and typically plays more challenging music than the Eagle Bands.*

Jazz Ensembles: At the end of 9th grade (and every spring after that) students MUST try out if they want to continue in jazz. Although not everyone makes a jazz band, there is room for a large number of students. Jazz I meets daily while Jazz II/III meet every other day.

Materials for both the concert bands and the jazz band auditions are given in the winter months. Auditions usually happen in mid to late April.

What is Solo/Ensemble Festival?

At Memorial High School students are encouraged to participate and some private lesson teachers may make participation a requirement. At solo/ensemble students perform a piece of music for a judge who then critiques their playing. Although the judge is there to rate their playing, they also explain to the students what they are doing right and how to improve on their skills and playing technique. Any student receiving a star will go on to compete in the state level festival which will be on May 5th at UWEC.

Students can choose a piece of music from our band music library. They can receive assistance in selecting a piece of music from one of our band directors or from their private music teacher if they take lessons. There are different levels of music to choose from, and the ability to move on to the state competition is dependent on the level of music chosen. The students will be instructed on all of these points in their band classes. Please keep in mind, it is up to the students to make sure their band director know they are interested in solo/ensemble so that they can assist them.

The solo and ensemble festival will be held on April 14th at Memorial. The state festival is May 5th at UWEC.

Thank you!

To all the MHS Concession Stand Volunteers, with a special thanks to co-chairs Barb and Gary Johnston, for another terrific year at Carson Park. We had great game weather, and the halftime shows and pep bands showcased our incredibly dedicated and talented students and directors. All that added up to a successful fundraising season for the band.

To all of our uniform volunteers: The students would not have looked as awesome as they did in the halftime shows and parade if it wasn't for the hard work of the **uniform committee**. Hats off to Moira More and Marcia Bowman and their crew of uniform distributors who outfitted over 300 students in purple, white, and gold! Thank you Teresa Oberweis, Renee Sreenivasam, Marianna Gilbertson, Linda Lowry, Troy Ness, Denise Freid-Scheppe, Cindy Walsh, Sheril Gilbertstadt, Denise Bender, Bonnie Thalacker and Jodi Emerson.

Thrift Sale, POPS Concert, and Evening of Jazz committee chairs have met and are planning for the spring. They are counting on parents to contribute in any way to make the band fundraising events a success. Please consider doing what you can to help out. With these long-standing traditional events happening in April and May, we hope this early information will give you the opportunity to reserve the important dates on your calendar.

Band Thrift Sale April 21, 2012

A heartfelt **Thank You** goes out to all of you who have responded to the requests for donations and volunteers for the annual band thrift sale. Due to your generosity, the band has had two years of record sales and record numbers of volunteers who have made this event a huge success. It is our hope that we continue to provide a great opportunity for volunteerism and financial support to the MHS bands. As the holidays approach, we want to “give thanks” for all you do to support the students of MHS and its strong tradition of music!

Got Stuff? No donation is too small, and here’s how to get it organized. Follow these simple steps and stay tuned each month for donation ideas:

1. Designate a corner of your basement, storage area, or closet.
2. Find a box, plastic tote, or large, plastic bag.
3. Label your container **MHS Band Thrift Sale 2012**
4. As you pack away your gently used summer gear and organize for the hunting season, remember **“Santa’s Rule: Get One, Toss Two”** into the MHS Band Thrift Sale Box. If they won’t fit next year, put summer sandals, hiking boots, running shoes, and camouflage outerwear into the MHS box. Unused lawn chairs, garden tools, sports equipment, and camping gear can go into the storage area now.
5. Deliver the boxes of goods to the auxiliary gym back door at **Memorial High School on Friday, April 20, 2012, between 3:00 and 7:00pm.**
6. Take home your **tax deductible charitable donation** receipt for your 2012 tax return.
7. Feel great about getting organized and giving to others!
8. Ask a neighbor to do the same.



Thank you to A+ Storage Solutions for providing space to store large items beginning in February. Contact Marianna if you have an item that needs to be stored for the thrift sale.
Questions? Contact Marianna Gilbertson at Marianna@gilfarms.com or 715-833-8427

Q

- What's the one concert EVERYONE plays at?
- Where can you have your pie and eat it too?
- Where do the graduating seniors get recognized?
- Where can you see artwork and a concert?
- Where can you walk around and stretch between songs?

A:

MAY 9th!
@
**THE POPS
CONCERT!**
7:00p.m.
MHS Auditorium

Winter is almost here, but it's not too early to volunteer for the annual POPS Concert on Wednesday, May 9th. It is always a treat for both your ears and palate. The band program will begin at 7 PM in the Memorial auditorium. All the concert bands and jazz bands will be performing, and a combined band of all MHS band students will end the evening in a grand finale. Senior band students will be recognized, and awards are presented at this time. In addition to wonderful musical entertainment, we will once again be serving pie, coffee, and pop as a band parent fundraiser.

WE NEED YOUR HELP. When you get the call from the Pops Committee, please be willing to contribute a pie, money, or time to making this another successful fundraiser. Just a hint: if you are donating a pie, please donate the kind of pie you would like to eat the night of the concert. Last year we had lots of fruit pie donations, but everyone wanted a slice of cream pie! If you are interested in helping or would like more information, contact :

Denise Bender (dbenwild@charter.net, 835-8447) or
Cindy Frederikson (caf355@gmail.com, 715-878-1582) or
Chris Watts (wattshome@sbcglobal.net, 715-836-1582).



Evening of Jazz Information

Memorial High School's Evening of Jazz takes place **Saturday, May 12, at 6:30p.m. at the Heyde Center for the Arts in Chippewa Falls.** You won't want to miss this fun-filled evening of big band and jazz music performed by MHS Jazz I, II, and III and the jazz combos! Kick up your heels on the Heyde auditorium dance floor, or just sit back, relax, and enjoy the music! The evening will also feature delicious deli-style sandwiches, a fabulous dessert bar, and a wide variety of silent auction items for purchase.

This major fundraiser supports ALL MHS bands and depends on many volunteers, including all Jazz parents, to make it a success! Please volunteer your help in one or more of the following ways:

- donate to the silent auction
- help procure donations for the silent auction
- create the senior spotlight (survey, photograph & make display of graduating Jazz students)
- publicity
- donate a dessert
- day-of tasks: set up, sell admission, assemble or sell food, room monitoring/security, assist with silent auction

Contact co-chairs Cindy Casey Widstrand (878-4640) or Patty Marsnik (878-9031) for more information or to volunteer your help .

Fundraising and Band Trips

How can kids offset the cost of Band Trips?

There are two different kinds of fundraising that take place in our band department.

One is the fund raising that takes place with the Band Parent Organization. These include football concessions, thrift sale, Friends of MHS Bands, Pops concert, and Evening of Jazz. This money is used to benefit the entire band program at Memorial. We purchase instruments, equipment, and help provide enriching musical experiences for the students.

The other type of fundraising is for the band student's personal account. The students have sold a variety of products in the past. This fundraising is NOT MANDATORY. The money raised goes into each student's personal account and can be used for upcoming band trips. It is an opportunity for the students to raise funds in order to help defray the costs of band trips. How much money does a student need for a band trip? In the past the frosh have always taken an overnight, spring trip to Minneapolis. They have watched a musical or concert at a wonderful venue and have gone to Valley Fair or the Mall of America. The cost for this has been around \$120.

"The money raised goes into each student's personal account. This balance can be used to offset the cost of Future band trips, large or small."

Bigger Trips: Every other year the band tries to schedule a "major trip".

Our next trip will be during Spring Break 2013, and we'll be going to New York City. The cost will be \$825.00. All sophomores, juniors, and senior band students are allowed to participate on these trips regardless of what band they play in.

The jazz students, particularly Jazz I and II have a few more opportunities for travel to area jazz festivals. The Band Parent Organization does provide some funding for transportation, but students are asked to help with the cost of meals and lodging. Essentially Ellington, which is a competition in NYC, is funded by jazz families through their own fundraising and donations if Jazz I wins this opportunity to compete.

Other costs that you might encounter as part of the MHS band program:

- The concert attire for the Old Abe Wind Ensemble and Jazz I is formal. The boys are required to purchase a tuxedo which costs approximately \$150, and the girls are required to wear a black, formal dress.
- Private lessons: These are not required but are encouraged. We are fortunate to have UWEC and its music department in our community. There are many music students and professionals interested in providing instruction. Check our website for more information and a list of tutors.

Are You Receiving Emails From The Band Parent Organization?

Communication is always a challenge with a group as large as the MHS Band Parent Organization. We have compiled a list of parent emails over the last few months, but we are still missing a few. If you are not receiving our emails, check your junk mailbox and add kkway2239@gmail.com to your contact list OR double check with Kim Way to see if we have your correct information.

For latest information and electronic copies of newsletter check out our website at:

www.mhsmusic.net/band

Also you can join us on Facebook as another means to communicate. Stay in the know of what's happening with the bands!!

Make sure your family is signed up for Skyward, the school district's student information system. This is the district's main means of communication.

Sign up at <http://www.ecasd.k12.wi.us/parents/index.cfm>

Band Directors Contact info:

Eric Dasher: edasher@ecasd.k12.wi.us 852-6360

Dennis Luginbill dluginbill@ecasd.k12.wi.us 852-6361

Holiday concert is December 5th!

ALL concert band students perform. Concert starts at 7:00 p.m.

Looking for a Year End Deduction?

It is not too late to make a tax-free donation to the Band Parent Organization for 2011.

Simply send your monetary gift by December 22nd to :

Friends of Memorial
c/o MHS Band Parents
2225 Keith Street, Eau Claire, WI 54701.

A receipt for tax purposes will be sent to you upon receiving your donation.