

# McComb Public School District Band Department Handbook



2019 - 2020



## *A Letter From the Directors*

Dear Parent(s)/ Guardian(s) and Students:

Greetings! As a new season for the McComb High School Tiger Band approaches, we are filled with tremendous excitement and enthusiasm. We sincerely hope that you all share the same passion and eagerness for the many experiences we will share over the coming years. As we anticipate the start of our performances in August, it is our goal that we do our very best to show our support and spirit at each event in which we are present. The season will be highlighted by high-energy performances, both on and off campus, for many diverse audiences. We look forward to everyone's support, effort, and participation this season.

In order for these events to be a pleasant experience for both you and the audiences, we must all give our greatest effort, which includes: being on time for rehearsals, having our materials, knowing our music, and having a good attitude. If you come with these things, we as the instructors will make sure you have the resources and opportunities to succeed.

We would also like to invite all parents to join our awesome Band Parents' Organization - The Tiger Paw Band Club. Meetings will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday in every month unless specified by a director. There are yearly dues associated with this organization, of which the amount is voted on at the end of each school year.

In our handbook you will find policies, procedures, and other important information regarding the McComb Band Program. Please take the time to read this material, as the success of our band depends upon each individual working toward the same goals. **Sign the acknowledgment form and have your child return it to a director by July 19, 2019.**

If you have any questions, feel free to contact us.

Musically Yours,

The McComb Band Department Staff

# McComb School District Band Department

## Mission Statement

The mission of the McComb Band Department faculty and staff is to develop all students musically, academically, socially, and emotionally during their matriculation through the beginning, advanced, and high school band levels; to become *World Class* musicians and citizens.

## Philosophy of Music

Every aspect of music is important and will be emphasized at various stages in a student's development. The core of the instrumental program is the concert band. From this ensemble, groups such as the marching band, small chamber ensembles, and pep bands are derived. The Denman Jr. High music department stresses the advancement of the student's abilities to function in both the large group and small ensemble setting. Music offers a unique opportunity to challenge each student cognitively, affectively, and physically. It provides for emotional expression, intrinsic worth, and has a positive impact on individuals, families, communities, and culture.

## General Information

**Marching Band/Pep Band:** Marching band is open to all band members in grades 9-12. The junior high band performs at some junior high football games, and two area parades. The high school performs at all games, scheduled competitions, selected parades, and other events that may occur. Rehearsals will be held as needed throughout the year. **These events and rehearsals are mandatory.** The performance schedule is located in the back of the handbook.

**Color Guard/Auxiliary:** Color Guard is open to all band members grades 9-12. Students will audition in May of each year for the upcoming school year. Auditions are by invitation only, and students must be in good standing with the school and in the band program. Color Guard/Auxiliary members will perform during the halftime show only, and are required to play their instruments at any other time. Color Guard/Auxiliary members must enroll and participate in band class both semesters.

**Concert Band:** The concert band is open to all band members in grades 7-8 at Denman Jr. High and 9-12 at McComb High School. **The high school band rehearses after school twice a week for one hour. If after school practice needs to be held for junior high, a letter/remind notice will be sent home 24 hours in advance.** The high school practice schedule will remain the same the entire year. Specific concert dates are listed on the attached music calendar.

**Beginner Band:** **The beginner band is available for 6th-8th grade students at Summit Elementary and Denman Jr. High.** Students must have an instrument, and be enrolled in the class. Beginning band students do not do marching performances; however, they perform at Band Night, the Christmas Concert, and the Spring Concert. One or two after-school rehearsals will be required before these performances.

**Other Ensembles:** The MHS Band Department has several smaller ensembles available to students by **audition only**. These ensembles include but are not limited to: Jazz Band/Stage Band, Brass Choir, and Woodwind Choir. **All percussion players are REQUIRED to participate in Percussion Ensemble in order to fulfill the requirements of the band course.**

**Uniforms:** **8th Grade and High School students must purchase all uniform bibbers and accessories. We will order these items for the students during spring and summer band camp. Bibbers usually cost around \$55.00 and shoes are around \$38.00.**

**Fees:** **Band fees are \$85 for all band students and are due on or before July 19, 2019. An additional fee of \$25 is required for all students who use school loaned instruments, including percussion. Color Guard fees are assessed according to the needs of the ensemble.**

**Instructional Lessons:** Any member wanting private lessons or extra time will need to schedule a weekly meeting with the director with the parents' permission.

**Auditions:** Auditions for chair placements are held twice each school year (**December and April**). Specific requirements and procedures are posted in the band room.

**Equipment Needs:** Each learner must bring to class everyday: **a sharpened pencil with an eraser, a folder of binder with clamps and pockets, loose leaf paper, method book, sheet music, their instrument, in good working condition, and a positive attitude.**

**Transportation Policy:** It is the policy of the McComb School District that all band members ride school transportation to away events. Students may ride home with parents or a relative providing they have submitted the transportation release form **prior** to leaving for the event. This form is available from the director.

## **GRADING POLICY**

### **Weight:**

Rehearsals                    33 %

Performances                33 %

Tests, quizzes, homework, etc. 33%

### **Rehearsal Criteria** (weekly grade)

- Student is on time for rehearsal
- Instrument and appropriate materials
- Attentive and exhibiting good conduct
- Attendance to all rehearsal sessions
- Performing music at a proficient level

### **Performance Criteria** (grade for each performance)

- Student on time for performance warm-up
- Instrument and appropriate materials
- Attentive and contributing to a good performance
- Individual part performed at a high level of proficiency
- Proper attire

## **Grading Scale**

<b>A</b>	<b>90-100</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>80-89</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>70-79</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>60-69</b>
<b>F</b>	<b>0-59</b>

There will be at least one (1) major test grade test grade per week. Most of these tests will be performance based, in which the student will play their instrument. Playing tests are to be submitted via video recording to the director's email. **If a student is absent, it is his/her responsibility to make arrangements with the director for make-up.** There will be an exam at the end of each semester.

## **Discipline Policy**

In order to maintain an orderly educational environment, the following discipline policy will be implemented.

### ***Rules/Classroom Expectations***

1. Be punctual to class
2. Have all required materials in class and at your seat
3. No talking while rehearsal is in progress
4. Follow instructions the first time given
5. Begin bell ringer and/or warm-up exercises immediately upon being seated
6. No food, drink, or gum in the band room (plain water is the only exception)

### ***Consequences***

- |                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Offense | Verbal warning and one page report on topic given by director  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense | After school detention with parent contact                     |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense | Office referral with parent contact                            |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> Offense | Dismissal from band until meeting with parent(s) and principal |

Positive consequences will vary each semester

## **SEVERE DISCIPLINE CLAUSE**

In the event a student blatantly and/or maliciously causes a serious classroom disruption, the severe disciplinary clause will take effect and the student will serve the fifth offense consequence.

### ***Performance Expectations***

1. Be punctual
2. Dress appropriately
3. Bring all necessary materials
4. Have fun

**\*\*ALL PERFORMANCES ARE MANDATORY AND A MAJOR GRADE. STUDENTS WHO PLAY SPORTS, CHEERLEADING, OR ANY OTHER SCHOOL OR OUTSIDE ACTIVITY, MUST MAKE ARRANGEMENTS WITH THEIR COACHES OR LEADERS IN ADVANCE. \*\***

## **Attendance Policy**

**As this is a performance-based class, attendance at ALL practices and performances is mandatory.** A calendar of events is enclosed in this handbook, and is also posted on the school's website. **IMPORTANT:** Save all of these dates so that there will be minimal or no conflicts from other outside plans. As previously stated, grades do depend heavily on attendance so it is best that students and parents prepare to be at all performances.

### **Excused Absences**

Excused absences fall into two categories: **Emergencies** and **Non-Emergencies**

These absences are the result of unforeseen circumstances such as illness, family illness, or death in family. Contact a member of the staff immediately if an emergency should occur. A note acknowledging the absence is required upon return.

#### **Non-Emergencies**

Requests for non-emergency related conflicts must be submitted to a member of the staff no later than one week prior to the event. Conflicts with any performance must be submitted prior to the season.

Scheduling these activities on off days is strongly recommended to avoid excessive student absence. All other absences will be considered unexcused and treated as such.

**Consequences for excused absences:**

- Students who miss a significant amount of rehearsal time may be suspended from performance since lack of proper preparation can result in dangerous situations on the field

**Consequences for unexcused absences:**

- More than one unexcused absence (cut) from rehearsal will result in a reduction in the marking period grade
- An unexcused absence from rehearsal may result in suspension from performance
- Students with more than FIVE unexcused absences or ONE unexcused performance absence, will be dismissed from the band, and immediately return to physical education.
- Unexcused absences will disqualify the student from leadership positions and college recommendations

**Tardiness**

Rehearsal BEGINS at the time indicated on the calendar; therefore, students are expected to arrive 15 minutes prior in order to get into their instrument ready and into proper formation. **After school clubs are not excused reasons for tardiness.** Students who need extra help after school must contact a member of the staff BEFORE missing part of a rehearsal. Unexcused lateness will be treated like unexcused absences.

## **Band Student Pick Up Policy**

**We request that all students are picked up after events from the band hall parking lot. Please do not block the driveway or park in the bus lane (the side of the school closest to the cafeteria). If parking in the band hall parking lot, please leave the marked parking spaces open so that the instrument truck can unload.**

With the upcoming schedule of games and contests, the McComb Band Staff would like to remind parents that student safety is our priority; and part of that includes parents picking up their students in a timely manner after these events. We know that pick up times after events are not always predictable, so we ask your child to contact you 30 minutes prior to our return to be picked up on time. We will announce this on the buses on our way home, as well as send out a Remind message (see instructions on pg 16 to subscribe). If it is a home game students will make this call at the end of the 3rd quarter.



A director will stay with students at the school for pick up. The following guidelines have been put in place to protect students and keep our directors from being at the school for extended periods of time after events:

- 1. Parents are to pick up students within 15 minutes of dismissal.**
- 2. A student will make a parent phone call in the band office with the director present at the 15 minute mark. Even if they say they have already called, this will be enforced to ensure contact has been made.**
- 3. 30 minutes after dismissal, a call will be placed to the McComb Police Department stating that a student has been abandoned at the school and requesting an officer to come and stay with them until the parent arrives.**
- 4. Students who are habitually late being picked up, will be placed on probation for 2 performances.**

## **Merit and Demerit System**

The merit and demerit system is designed to reward students that exhibit positive behaviors, and encourage a positive change in those that exhibit negative behaviors. Merits and demerits are as follows:

### **Merits**

Having required materials- 5 merits

Attendance at rehearsals- 5 merits

Performing at football games- 5 merits

Performing at required concerts- 10 merits

Attending band clinics-15 merits

Performing in solo and ensemble festival- 15 merits

Member of the loading crew-40 merits

Member of the uniform crew- 40 merits

Member of the library crew- 40 merits

All A's/ 9 weeks- 50 merits

All A's and B's/ 9 weeks- 35 merits

A 2.75 GPA or higher/9 weeks- 20 merits

Parent becoming a booster- 25 merits

Making MS All-State Band- 75 points

Extra performances (with signed program)- 10 merits

Taking private lessons-5 merits/lesson

Superior ratings at competition- 75 merits

Excellent ratings at competition- 50 merits

### **Merit Awards**

Upon the student reaching 600 merit points, a student will be awarded the following:

**1<sup>st</sup> Year- Band Backpack**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Year- Band Duffle**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Year- Band Windbreaker**

**4<sup>th</sup> Year- Band Letterman Blanket or Jacket**

## **Demerits**

Not having required materials- 5 demerits

Missing rehearsal- 20 demerits

Missing a performance- 50 demerits

Talking during rehearsals- 5 demerits

Late assignments-5 demerits

Tardiness (class, rehearsal, and performance)- 5 demerits

Chewing gum- 5 demerits

Eating or drinking (water is permitted)- 5 demerits

Improper performance dress- 10 demerits

Missing a lesson-10 demerits

Disrespect of any kind toward another (student or teacher)- 10+demerits

Leaving performance early-10 demerits

Leaving any materials out- 5 demerits

Leaving rehearsal before dismissed- 10 demerits

Unauthorized playing- 5 demerits

Profanity or obscenity- 10 demerits

## **Removal of Demerits**

Demerits may be removed by doing **EXTRA** work **OR** private practice, after school hours, in the band hall. Demerits will be removed at the rate of 2 per 30 minutes of work.

Merits and demerits will be posted every 2 weeks. Students who have received 15 demerits will be called in for a conference with the directors. At the reaching of 30 demerits, the student will be placed on probation. A parent teacher conference and a review of the student's behavior by the directors must take place before the student can be reinstated (at the discretion of the directors.)

## **Band Fees**

### **Band fees are \$85.00**

This fee includes, but is not limited to, the following:

#### **For Middle School/Junior High:**

Method Book, band polo, band hat, registration for contests, yellow bus transportation.

#### **For High School:**

Method Book, basic band attire (shirts, 1 pair of gloves, spats, etc.), registration for contests, yellow bus transportation.

## **School-Loaned Instruments**

\*\*\*There are limited amounts of instruments that students can use from the school. Students and parents must both sign a contract and pay the \$25.00 maintenance fee in order to use a school-loaned instrument.

## *Music Calendar*

### Denman Jr. High School

July 15 - 19	Full Band Camp	9 am – 4 pm
<b>July 19</b>	<b>Band Fees Due</b>	
September 23	Lawrence Co.	5 pm
September 30	Franklin Co.	5 pm
October 14	Tylertown	5 pm
<b>October 18</b>	<b>*Homecoming Parade *</b>	3:30 pm
October 21	Brookhaven	5 pm
December	McComb Christmas Parade	10 am
<b>December 11-14</b> <i>*overnight*</i>	MBA State Band Clinic	Wed-Sat
Dec. 19-22	Midwest Clinic, Chicago	<i>All Directors Out</i>
Jan. TBA	SWMBDA Band Clinic	Fri.-Sat.
Feb. TBA	Co-lin Band Clinic	Fri.-Sat.
Mar. TBA	Spring Trip (pending board approval)	
Mar. TBA	SWMBDA Band Festival	TBA
Apr. TBA	Spring Concert <i>All Bands</i>	6pm
May 9	Band Awards Brunch	10 am

***Music Calendar***  
***McComb High School***  
**2019**

<b>July 15 - 19</b>	Full Band Camp	9 am – 4 pm
<b>July 19</b>	<b>Band Fees Due</b>	
<b>July</b>	<b>Rehearsal</b>	
<b>August 5</b>	<b>Tiger Paw Band Club Meeting</b>	<b>6 pm</b>
<b>August 17</b>	Jamboree	7 pm
<b>August 23</b>	Jim Hill	7 pm
<b>August 30</b>	AT Hazlehurst	7 pm
<b>September 6</b>	Tylertown	7 pm
<b>September 13</b>	AT Brookhaven	7 pm
<b>September 20</b>	AT Wilkinson County	7 pm
<b>September 27</b>	OPEN	7 pm
<b>October 4</b>	South Pike	7 pm
<b>October 5</b>		
<b>October 11</b>	AT North Pike	7 pm
<b>October 12</b>	MHSAA Marching Festival (Pearl)	TBA
<b>October 18</b>	Lanier *Homecoming*	7 pm
<b>October 25</b>	Lawrence County *Senior Night*	7 pm
<b>November 1</b>	AT Raymond	7 pm
<b>November 16</b>	Lions Band Auditions-1st Round	
<b>November 23</b>	Lions Band Auditions-2nd Round	
<b>December</b>	McComb Christmas Parade	10 am
<b>December</b>	Summit Christmas Parade	6:30 pm
<b>December 11-14</b>	MBA State Band Clinic	Wed-Sat

<b>December 10</b>	Band Department Christmas Concert <i>All Bands</i>	6pm
<b>December 18-21</b>	Midwest Band Clinic	<i>All Directors Out</i>

## 2020

<b>January</b>	Southwest Band Clinic MLK Parade	TBA Drum line only
<b>February</b>	Mardi Gras Co-Lin Band Clinic Scholarship Auditions (seniors) Concert Band Camp <i>All Bands</i>	TBA
<b>March</b>	Spring Trip (pending board approval) Southwest Community College Pre-Festival Co-Lin Pre-Festival	
<b>March 30- April 3</b>	State Concert Band Evaluations	TBA
<b>April</b>	Spring Concert <i>All Bands</i> Solo and Ensemble Festival Jazz Band/Stage Band Show	
<b>May</b>	MHS Band Auditions End of the Year Booster Meeting	6 pm
<b>May 11</b>	Band Awards Brunch	10 am

\*Please be aware that these dates may or may not change. If a change does occur, you will receive notification in advance. All performances are mandatory. This includes band clinics. If your student signs up and is selected, they must attend. Otherwise, except in case of emergency, the student will still have to pay the registration, their daily grade will be lowered one letter grade for the week, and he/she will no longer be allowed to sign up.

\*The directors will choose (10) eighth grade band helpers to assist with the high school band during Friday night football games. A permission slip and requirements letter will be sent home the first week of school. Understand that if your child is chosen, they are expected to be at every event that the high school band performs in.

**\*Also, please be reminded that band fees are due annually. If your child is in band, they are expected to pay the non-refundable \$85.00 band fee. The fee is due to the front office on . Students who do not pay band fees will not receive their materials in time for the first marching band performance.**



# Keep Up With Us!

## Remind

If you have a smartphone, get push notifications. On your iPhone or Android phone, open your web browser and go to the following link: [rmd.at/8e7k6k](https://rmd.at/8e7k6k)

If you don't have a smartphone, get text notifications. Text the message [@8e7k6k](https://text.com/@8e7k6k) to the number **81010**. If you're having trouble with 81010, try texting [@8e7k6k](https://text.com/@8e7k6k) to **(769) 757-6329**.

Don't have a mobile phone? Go to [rmd.at/8e7k6k](https://rmd.at/8e7k6k) on a desktop computer to sign up for email notifications

## Google Classroom

Students will turn in all assignments via Google Classroom. Parents can also have access to student assignments by simply adding a valid email address on your student information sheets.

## The Band App

**Download the App in your app store. Search for "McComb Bands". Click "join".**

## Band Website

Log on to the McComb School District page <https://www.mccomb.k12.ms.us/>

Click on Schools.

Click McComb High School

Click Tiger Band

## **Staff Directory**

**Mrs. Kendra J. Washington:** [washingtonk@mccomb.k12.ms.us](mailto:washingtonk@mccomb.k12.ms.us)

**Mr. Marcus Washington:** [washingtonm@mccomb.k12.ms.us](mailto:washingtonm@mccomb.k12.ms.us)

**Color guard instructor – Ms. Zacharia Harris:** [zachariaharris@gmail.com](mailto:zachariaharris@gmail.com)

**Band Hall Phone: 601-684-1979**

## McComb Band Contract/Acknowledgement Form

I, \_\_\_\_\_, have read and understand all information covered in this handbook, including but not limited to: band fees, grading policy, attendance policy, and student pick up policy. I understand that the music calendar is subject to changed throughout the year and that I will be notified in a timely manner. My student and I will abide by all policies as set forth by the McComb School District and the McComb Band Program. We understand that failure to adhere to these policies can result in probation or expulsion from the McComb Band Program.

\*A copy of the band handbook is available for your review on the band's webpage:  
<https://mhs.mccomb.k12.ms.us/>

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date