



Mars Indoor Percussion Handbook 2024

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To start, I want to welcome everyone to what will be another fantastic season at Mars Indoor Percussion! This packet will contain important information that pertains to the 2024 indoor season. For those of you that do not already know me, my name is Dave Soose, and I am the Director of Mars Indoor Percussion. Along with myself as well as the rest of the staff, we are excited to get this season underway. As a staff, we are committed to pushing the students in the ensemble to their maximum potential, and will continue to strive towards excellence each and every day.

Whether you are new to the program, or a seasoned veteran in the indoor activity, you may have some questions regarding the upcoming season. Because of this, we have developed a handbook for your convenience. Enclosed within this handbook you will find information in regards to:

- General Expectations
- Rehearsal/Performance Expectations
- Uniform Care
- Equipment Usage policy
- Uniform Policy
- Handbook Policy
- Fees
- Ensemble Calendar
- Medical Forms
- T-shirt Order Form
- Parent/Student Information form

Please complete and turn in all forms at the first rehearsal, November 28th, 2023.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to email me at marchingdirector@marsband.com.
Let's have a great season!

Dave Soose
Director
Mars Indoor Percussion

Expectations

As members of Mars Indoor Percussion, we hold ourselves to the highest of standards. Below are a list of expectations set out for the members of the ensemble:

General:

1. Members of the ensemble are to treat themselves, their staff, parents, as well as everyone in different ensembles with the utmost respect.
2. Members are to follow the rules of the Mars Area School District at all times.
3. Members are to be working to the best of their abilities at all times.
4. Failure to uphold the above expectations may result in either a suspension or removal from the ensemble.

Rehearsals

1. Rehearsals and Performances are MANDATORY for all performers. The only instance when a member is excused for a rehearsal or performance is if the student is ill, there is an emergency, or a once in a lifetime event. In order for the ensemble to grow and be successful, it is of the utmost importance that every student be in attendance for every event.
 - a. If a student is absent for one of the reasons listed above, communication must be made to Dave Soose by the parent in a timely manner through email/phone call if a last minute illness arises. Word of mouth from other students is not proper communication. More than 5 missing rehearsals/events throughout the season can result in removal from the program, unless extenuating circumstances arise.
 - b. If students are reporting they are sick, a doctor's note will need to be presented at the next rehearsal the student attends
2. At rehearsals, students are to wear athletic clothing. No jeans are to be worn during practice. Also, members are required to wear athletic shoes when on the floor. NO EXCEPTIONS!
3. Members are to come to rehearsal prepared every day. Items that are asked to be complete for rehearsals are to be prepared accordingly. If the student is not prepared to perform at the level expected, they may be withheld from an upcoming performance.
4. Students are only to be in the areas which are designated for the ensemble during rehearsals.
5. Because we rehearse at various schools throughout the district, we load and unload our gear every night. Students are required to help with the load/unload process for every rehearsal/performance. This time will be in addition to the 6pm-9pm rehearsal time.

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Performances:

1. When traveling on the school bus to and from performances, students are not to have food or drink with them. AT ANY ENSEMBLE EVENT, REFRAIN FROM BRINGING ANY FOOD CONTAINING PEANUTS AS THERE MAY BE STUDENTS WITH NUT ALLERGIES.
2. At shows, students are to use the buddy system; i.e. no less than three to a group when walking around. While at a show, students are only to be in areas that are designated for them.
3. Students are expected to exercise common sense at all times while at host venues.
4. All students need to adhere to chaperones instructions while at an event. REMEMBER: ALL OF OUR PARENT CHAPERONES ARE VOLUNTEERS. THEY PARTICIPATE IN THESE EVENTS IN THEIR FREE TIME AND SHOULD BE TREATED WITH THE UTMOST RESPECT!

Uniforms:

1. Parts of the indoor uniform will include the top, pants, shoes, and garment bag. All items besides shoes will be turned in at the conclusion of the season to be cleaned and/or sold.
2. All uniform parts MUST be hung up properly at all times. Students who do not hang up their uniform pieces properly may be held accountable for damaged uniform pieces.
3. While uniforms are at home, uniforms are to be hung OUTSIDE of the garment bag in order to properly air out. Failure to do so could cause the uniform to smell/mold.
4. Before each performance, shoes must be cleaned/polished. This is for aesthetic purposes as well as to keep the tarp as clean as possible.

Equipment:

1. All equipment being used is the property of the Mars Area School District. Students are to treat the equipment with the utmost care.
2. Students are responsible for the equipment they use throughout the show. It is their responsibility to take care of, pack, and load on the truck each and every rehearsal/performance.
3. Failure to take care of equipment may result in the individual student paying for his/her damaged equipment. This will only occur if a student fails to take care of the equipment. General maintenance cost will not fall on the student.

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Volunteers/Chaperones:

1. Like marching band, the indoor program requires help from chaperones when attending competitions.
2. If you have already filled out the correct paperwork from the fall time, you will be already approved for the winter season.
3. If you would like to become a chaperone but need to fill out the necessary paperwork the link to the district page for independent volunteers is:
http://www.marsk12.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=795617&type=d&pREC_ID=1186771
 - a. Once you have filled out the volunteer application and obtained all of your clearances, please submit them to the district's administration building.
4. To sign up as a chaperone, visit www.marsband.com, and click on the "Volunteer Opportunities" tab. You can then access the website www.signup.com to volunteer for specific events.

FamilyID:

1. All participating members will have to register on FamilyID to be part of the ensemble. Below is the link to register:
 - a. <https://students.arbitersports.com/organizations/mars-area-school-district-activities>

Dues and Fees

- \$100 Mars School District Activity Fee
 - Checks made out to Mars Area School District or complete online
 - Due November 28th, 2023
 - This is the first official practice of the season. According to school district policy, students may not participate until district fees have been paid.
 - If you are Free and Reduced lunch, you do NOT need to pay this fee, **however, you still need to register with FamilyID**
- First Mars Band Booster Fee (amount TBD)
 - Checks made out to Mars Area Band Booster Inc.
 - Due December 13th, 2023
- Second Mars Band Booster Fee (amount TBD)
 - Checks made out to Mars Area Band Boosters Inc.
 - Due January 15th, 2024
- WGI Regional Fee
 - Two rounds of payments
 - First Payment due January 31st, 2024 (amount TBD)
 - Second payment due February 29th, 2024 (amount TBD)
- \$40 Marching Shoes
 - Checks made out to Mars Area Band Boosters Inc.
 - **These will only need purchased if the student does not have a pair of marching shoes already in performance condition.**
- \$70-\$80 Indoor Jacket
 - **This is an optional item that students may want to purchase**
- \$40-\$45 Ensemble Jersey
 - **This is an optional item that students will be given the option to purchase if they so choose.**

******ANY UNPAID MARCHING BAND FEES MUST BE PAID IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN THE INDOOR PERCUSSION PROGRAM******

EQUIPMENT USAGE POLICY

I, _____, hereby understand that the equipment used by me is owned by the Mars Area School District. If I mistreat my equipment, damage my equipment, or carelessly maintain my equipment, I will be solely responsible for the payment of the equipment. This includes, but is not limited to repairs and/or the replacement of certain equipment that is beyond repair.

UNIFORM POLICY

I, _____, hereby acknowledge that the care and upkeep of my uniform is my responsibility. Any excessive wear and tear outside the norm of my uniform may make me financially responsible for the replacement of said uniform. I also agree that if I do not return my uniform in the time manner in which it is requested at the end of the season, I will also be financially responsible to replace said uniform.

HANDBOOK POLICY

I, _____, hereby acknowledge that I read and fully understand the policies outlined in the Mars Indoor Percussion 2024 Handbook. I understand that it is my obligation to adhere to the policies set forth at all times throughout the season. Failure to follow the rules/policies within the handbook can be subject to removal from the program.

Signature

Date

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Media Consent Form: Mars Indoor Percussion 2024

I hereby give permission for images/videos of my child, captured during the 2024 Indoor Percussion season, through video and photo, to be used solely for the purposes of promoting Mars Indoor Percussion and its members.

Student Name: _____

Parent Name: _____

Parent Signature of Approval: _____

Date: _____