

Milton High School

Band Handbook

2008-2009

Mr. Ronald Tesch
Principal

Mr. Ryan Borger
Band Director

Mr. Mark Kapral
Band Director

Welcome to the award-winning Milton High School Band family. The 2008-2009 school year gives us all the opportunity to carry on the outstanding tradition of excellence that is the trademark of the Milton Band. Since Milton High School opened as Milton County High School, the band has been an integral part of the lives of the students at Milton. The band program has come a long way from the first rehearsals years ago in the "log cabin" to our beautiful new room today. We are proud to carry on the rich, long-standing traditions that are the Milton Band's foundation. Congratulations on your decision to become a part of one of the finest musical organizations in the country. The Milton Band provides musical activities that encompass a wide range and allows every member an opportunity to reach their highest possible level of excellence.

The fall season emphasizes the excellence of our outstanding Milton High School Marching Band. Our performances will include home and away football games, as well as several marching competitions. The band has also represented Milton High School, the city of Alpharetta, the state of Georgia and the United States of America in the 2001 New Year's Day Parade in London, England, the 2004 Fiesta Bowl Parade and Festival in Phoenix, Arizona and in prestigious Carnegie Hall in New York, New York in 2003. Last year's marching band enjoyed a superior rating at the BOA Atlanta Super-Regional and an exceptional experience in Hawaii.

The Milton Band program features three concert organizations that have developed into outstanding musical ensembles through participation in concerts and festivals. The Concert Band, Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble will present several public performances as well as participate in the Georgia Music Educators' Association Concert Band Performance Evaluations. Our concert groups have also performed for national and regional concert band festivals including the 2004 Bands of America National Concert Band Festival and the 2000 National Adjudicators Invitational Concert Festival. The Wind Ensemble has been invited to perform as a guest ensemble at the 2006 Music Educators' National Conference convention in Salt Lake City, Utah, the 2002 Southeastern United States Concert Band Clinic at Troy State University, the 2002 and 2005 Southern Conductors Conference at the University of Southern Mississippi, the 2003 and 2007 University of Georgia High School Music Festival, the 2003 University of South Carolina Band Clinic and Conductors Conference and the 2004 Georgia Music Educators' Inservice Conference in Savannah, Georgia. In addition, the Wind Ensemble and the Symphonic Band performed in the National Invitational Concert Band Festival, held in Carnegie Hall in New York City in April of 2003. There were only 16 bands from across the country invited to this festival. What an outstanding honor for our two bands!

In addition to the ensemble successes, the individual members of the Milton Band have distinguished themselves as gifted and talented musicians from their selection to the Georgia Music Educators' Association All State Band & All State Orchestra, the Governor's Honors Program, the Fulton County Honor Band, Solo and Ensemble Festivals and other university-sponsored Honor Band groups.

Hard-working students, dedicated staff members, involved and active parents, and a supportive administration and community all combine to make it possible for the Milton High School Band program to offer an outstanding array of musical opportunities. Our students are expected to set and reach high goals for themselves and their program. The rewards of meeting those expectations are immeasurable in the development of our students as well-rounded human beings. Members of the Milton Band will develop musically, emotionally, mentally, socially and physically during their time in the band program at Milton High School.

This handbook is intended to be used by the students, parents, administrators, staff and directors as a convenient source of information regarding the varied aspects of the Milton Band program. We have tried to cover as thoroughly as possible every fact of the program. Students and parents must read this handbook carefully and sign and return the agreement forms located in the book. Band members are expected to abide by and understand all rules and regulations set forth in this handbook. Remember, we must all maintain a strong commitment to excellence to become “Second to None!”

Performing Ensembles

I. Marching Band

To be a member of the Milton High School Marching Band, which is a competitive marching band under the Georgia High School Association guidelines, each member must be enrolled in the proper band class during the school day. Each member must comply with all rules and regulations of his particular band class. The students agree to attend summer rehearsals and are required to attend band camp. Exceptions must be cleared through the directors well in advance. Each member must meet all financial obligations and must attend all rehearsals and performances of the group. Fundraisers will be available to help meet the financial obligations. Marching Band is designated as a “Co-Curricular” activity at Milton High School. Very high expectations are held by each marching band member. A commitment to excellence means a commitment to be present at every marching band rehearsal.

II. Concert Bands

Milton High School has three performing ensembles in the daily schedule. Those ensembles include Concert Band, Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble. Much more detailed information may be obtained about the Concert Bands from each ensemble’s class syllabus which is distributed on the first day of class each semester. Please read the syllabus carefully and sign and return the “agreement form”.

III. Jazz Ensembles, Percussion Ensembles, Winterguard, Winter Drum Line and other small ensembles

These ensembles are all co-curricular and normally begin once Marching Band season is over. The Milton Indoor Drumline is the 2008 WGI Scholastic A Bronze Medalist, our Winter Guard is an active and integral part of our program, our jazz program is growing rapidly, and this year we introduce our percussion master class. We are extremely proud of all of our small ensembles, giving students ample opportunity to perform in groups to showcase their talents and interests.

Financial Information

The Fulton County Board of Education provides basic support for their band programs. We are fortunate that Fulton County holds the arts in very high regard as an academic subject and provides a high level of support for all arts programs. However, since the financial investment to maintain the level of excellence in our band program is great, our band booster club must supplement the system’s support of our band program. Fundraising events are scheduled throughout the year to help our band program maintain the high level of success that we have enjoyed and to help individual students offset any costs related to band events. To assist the students, the Band Booster Club maintains Students Personal Accounts (SPA) where students can earn a portion of the profits from a particular fundraiser for his individual SPA. Funds in the SPA may be used to help defray any costs related to participation in the band program. These expenses may include Band Camp, band trips, band shoes, band banquet, musical equipment and any other costs related to band. All remaining money in the students account at the end of the school year automatically rolls over to the next year. If a graduating senior has a positive balance in his account at graduation, he may elect to “pass down” his balance to a younger sibling in the band or if no sibling is involved in the band program, the funds roll over into the general band booster funds. If a band family experiences financial difficulty, the director should be notified. Fundraisers and payment plans will be available to ensure that all students who wish to participate in the Milton High School Band program will be given the opportunity to do so. Please note that if this case arises, the director must be notified. Such cases will be treated with strict confidence.

Band Parent Obligation

The band directors work to create a budget each year that is an estimation of the necessary operating expenses needed for the following school year. The directors, along with the Band Booster officers, work to outline and estimate the profits from scheduled fundraisers throughout the year. In most cases, a shortfall exists between these two figures. This shortfall is divided equally among all participating members of the Milton Band program. This amount is called the “Band Parent Obligation” (BPO). The amount of the BPO may be paid or fundraisers may be used to cover this obligation. All band families are expected to contribute their fair share of the BPO each year.

Traditions and Philosophy

The Milton Band has developed a proud tradition of excellence since the school opened in 1921. During the past few years and for the coming years, we will experience an unprecedented period of growth in our program. While exciting, this growth brings with it several problems associated with the growth that we will have to address as a program. You, in becoming a member of this organization, assume the responsibility of continuing the proud tradition of the Milton Band and blazing new trails for the future. The Milton Band program is dedicated to providing educational experiences for its students in the performing arts. All educational activities will take place in an atmosphere which promotes social and artistic development of the students through creative and innovative programs, each based upon high quality leadership and instruction. In addition, it is our belief that the process of continual improvement is just as important as the end result. This places emphasis on the development and growth of each individual student, not specific performances.

“Success is a journey....not a destination”

Attitude

Those students who have a positive mental attitude, regardless of their individual skills, will always have a place in the Milton Band. Regardless of your ability, if your attitude is not positive, if you are not doing your personal best to make the group successful, you should not be a part of this organization. In fact, students who do not project an attitude that is positive and cooperative will be given the opportunity to either change their personal perspective or else leave the organization. Those who have pride in themselves will usually project a positive mental attitude. Characteristics of a positive mental attitude include a generally cheerful outlook towards rehearsals and performances, cooperation in the preparation and maintenance of equipment and facilities, and an eagerness to do whatever is necessary to be successful. In short, the total band member is someone who is always willing to give their best for the good of the organization.

Band Office & Communication

The band office at Milton High School is the business office of the Milton High School Band Directors. Please treat the office as such. The telephone is off limits to students except in an emergency. All rehearsal times are published well in advance, so parents should not need a phone call to verify that we have dismissed on time. On occasions where the band is arriving back at an unspecified time, the phone will be made available for student use. If there are any questions regarding the band program, do not hesitate to call the Band Office. You may leave a message on voice mail during the day and we will return your call as soon as possible. You may also reach us through email at the following address: Ryan Borger (borger@miltonband.org), or Mark Kapral (kapral@miltonband.org). The band website address is www.miltonband.org. The website contains a wealth of information about our band program. You should check the website often for the latest information about the Milton Band.

Mr. Borger may be reached in an emergency via his cell phone at (770) 865-2595. Please call should something happen at the last minute before a rehearsal or performance.

Rehearsal Schedule

During Marching Season, the weekly schedule for Marching Band will be as follows:

- Mondays: Sectionals 4:00-6:00 PM
- Tuesdays: Full Band 6:30-9:00 PM
- Thursdays Full Band 4:00-6:30 PM

Any additional rehearsals for the concert ensembles will be announced at least two weeks in advance.

Band Staff

Paid professionals, technical assistants and guest artists are a vital part of the band program. Without their help, the Milton Band would not be able to achieve the standard to which we aspire. They must have the respect of all students and parents. Staff members are chosen by the Directors and are directly responsible to the directors. Students should give these staff members the same respect they give any member of the MHS faculty. Any problems should be brought directly to the directors. Do not confront the staff member directly. In addition to our two directors, we are fortunate to have the following Assistant Directors working with our students: Mr. Bobby Jones & Ms. Kelly Thielemann (guard); Mr. Lee Watts & Mr. Stephen Turner (brass) Ms. Carisa Grant, (woodwinds); Mr. Dinesh Dhunghana & Ms. Bronwyn Thomas (percussion). Additional staff will be hired during the course of the season and will provide the highest caliber of instruction for our students.

Grading Policies

When students are enrolled in a band class during the school day, credit is given to that student toward graduation. Each class has specific requirements for earning a numerical grade for participation in the ensemble for that grading period. In most cases, a system of earning points is utilized in the class. A very detailed class syllabus is distributed on the first day of class in each group. You are encouraged to read, sign and return the syllabus so that you are aware of the grading and attendance policies of that particular class. A sample syllabus is included on our website for your reference.

Classroom Procedures

All students must be inside the band room before the tardy bells rings. At two minutes after the tardy bell, each student is expected to be in their seat, with instrument, stand music and the necessary materials (PENCIL!!). There will be silence in the band room when the conductor steps onto the podium. Warm up is a crucial time in each rehearsal. This is when we focus on the fundamentals of our playing so that we may improve both as a group and as individuals. Brass players should have all necessary mutes and valve oil. Reed players should have at least one spare reed at their seat during rehearsals. Ideally, you should have four to five "good" reeds that you rotate from day to day. Your reeds will last longer and you will get better play from them if you do not use the same reed all of the time. Percussionists should make sure you have all of the required equipment needed to perform on your assigned instrument.

Cases should be left in the instrument storage room. They are unnecessary obstructions in the rehearsal area. At the end of rehearsals, make sure you put all of your equipment away. Everything must be put into the proper storage place at the end of each rehearsal. Instruments must be put back into the instrument storage room until it is time to take them home for practice. Small percussion equipment is to be put away at the conclusion of each rehearsal.

Problems of an individual nature (music missing, instrument problem, etc.) should not take class time. These issues should be dealt with either before school, after school or just before class as a last resort. Talking during rehearsals should be kept to a minimum. Any necessary talking should be about the music we are studying and should never be a distraction to the conductor or other students. When the conductor is on the podium, there should be no talking, when the conductor steps off of the podium, you may converse quietly if necessary.

Rehearsal and Performance Attendance

Band practices and performances are mandatory. Any request for an exception must be submitted in writing and approved by the directors two weeks in advance of the conflicting date, except in emergencies. Work is not an acceptable excuse for missing rehearsals or concerts. Our schedule is announced far enough in advance to avoid conflicts. Parents, please make every effort to make regular doctor's appointments around the bands schedule whenever possible. Also, please be advised that if you choose to participate in other extra-curricular activities such as cheerleading or recreation league soccer, you must work your schedules so that you do not miss band rehearsals or performances for these activities. Students are responsible for arriving at each rehearsal and performance on time (early) and prepared (properly dressed, instrument and music ready). Parents are urged to see that their children take this responsibility seriously.

Please read the following page for excusable and unexcusable absences from a performance or rehearsal

Excusable Absences:

- Sick and not in school
- Death in the family
- Religious holiday

Unexcusable Absences:

- Dentist/Orthodontist appointment
- Driving test
- Homework (time management is important!)
- Attending a rock concert or sporting event
- Birthday
- Work
- Trips (vacations) without proper advance notice (at least two weeks)
- No transportation (section leaders can assist you with rides if you need one)

Inspections

Uniform and instrument inspections will be held prior to each uniformed performance. These are conducted by the Drum Majors, Band President and Vice-Presidents, assisted by the Section Leaders. The Drum Majors will inspect the Officers and the section leaders will be responsible for the inspection of his own section. All problems noted during inspection will be reported to the Directors, who will determine whether or not the student will be allowed to perform. AFTER the inspection, students may rent items from the uniform room if the necessary items are available. These items must be returned immediately following the performance.

Instrument and Equipment Use

Most band members are expected to provide their own instruments. Mr. Kapral is the director in charge of our school owned equipment and instrument inventory. All questions and concerns relative to equipment and instruments should be directed to him. Mr. Kapral is the only director who may issue you a school owned instrument. In special cases such as percussion, colorguard, low brass or other larger instruments, school owned instruments may be available for use. If there is a special need for any other band instrument to be provided, every effort will be made to acquire an instrument for student classroom use. School owned instruments and equipment become the responsibility of the student to whom the equipment or instrument is issued. Any damage other than what would be considered normal wear and tear will be the individual student's responsibility to have repaired and the student will be responsible for the cost of said repairs. Individual instruments should always be maintained in top playing condition. Instruments in poor playing condition will have a negative impact on your ensemble. Remember that horseplay can cause damage to instruments and equipment. Be careful with your own instrument and place it out of harm's way if it is necessary for you to put it down. Never play around with or play on someone else's instrument. Parents are encouraged to provide the best possible instrument for your child. If you are interested in purchasing a "step up" instrument for your child, please speak with your director prior to your purchase. Many times we are aware of other opportunities, and you should always obtain a price from more than one source prior to your purchase. Qualified music retailers are the best source of equipment in most cases.

Band Awards Banquet

Annually each spring, the MHS Band sponsors the annual Awards Banquet. The banquet is held to recognize the achievements, both individual and group, made by the MHS Band during the year. Every student in the band program will receive some type of recognition at the banquet and all students and parents are urged to attend the celebration. Band Letters, Merit Awards and special recognitions are all a part of the banquet. Also, a special slide show and tribute to our graduating seniors will take place. The rising band officers will be announced and a great meal will be served. The band banquet is financed through ticket sales that may be purchased or SPA monies may be used.

Uniform Information

Marching band uniforms will be issued by the uniform committee of the Band Booster Club. Uniform fitting will take place during Marching Band registration prior to band camp each summer, beginning with seniors and returning marchers. Marching shoes will also be ordered at this time. A uniform use contract will need to be signed by both student and parent assuming responsibility for the uniform. The uniforms will be kept at school in the uniform room. Uniforms are checked out prior to each performance and returned after each performance. Uniforms will be dry-cleaned several times during the year.

General Band Rules

- Tennis shoes and white socks must be worn to all marching rehearsals
- Chewing gum is not permitted in any rehearsal or the band room
- No food or drink is allowed inside the band room at any time
- A band member must respect the Milton Band uniform at all times
- There is absolutely NO HAZING allowed within the Milton Band
- Be in your seat, warmed up and ready to begin on time
- Insubordination will not be tolerated
- Respect other people's property
- Public displays of affection are not allowed while on a band function. Remember, a band function is not a date!
- No jewelry (other than assigned jewelry for some concert uniforms), fingernail polish or excessive make-up is allowed while in uniform. Leave expensive jewelry at home.
- Never show any disrespect to any other band or its members
- Remember to always show your support for other groups' performances
- Show respect for all adults assisting with our band program at all times
- Keep your language clean. You never know who might be listening!
- The Milton Band is a class act, one that exudes professionalism in everything we do. Always conduct yourselves as ladies and gentlemen.

Band Letters

Band Letters are earned through exemplary participation in band for the school year. In order to be considered for a Band Letter, a student must be registered for a band ensemble class for the entire year (waived for colorguard members) and the student must also participate in one of our co-curricular activities. Once a student meets these requirements, attendance at the co-curricular activities must also be exemplary. Students with NO UNEXCUSED absences will be considered for a Band Letter. Students with more than one unexcused absence may not be considered for a Band Letter.

Travel

The Milton High School Band travels frequently during the year, including many out-of-city and even out-of-country trips. Be aware that travel is very expensive and is a privilege, not a right. Fulton County provides transportation to our football game performances. The Milton Band utilizes charter buses when we travel to marching competitions and other events. In the event that an overnight stay is involved in our travel plans, an itinerary will be prepared and distributed to all students and parents. Remember that all county, school and band rules apply for the duration of the trip. Each time we travel we are representing the Milton High School Band, Milton High School, the city of Alpharetta, Fulton County, the state of Georgia and the United States; we will all do our best to maintain these standards to the highest degree possible at all times.

Travel Rules

- Drinking alcoholic beverages and taking non-prescription drugs is absolutely prohibited. Immediate notification of local law enforcement will take place and serious administrative disciplinary action will take place if this rule is violated.
- No tobacco products of any kind are ever permissible on a band trip by students, chaperones or staff.
- There will be no males in female housing areas or females in male housing areas at any time.
- Students are expected to behave at all times in the hotel. Anyone deemed guilty of gross misbehavior will be sent home at parental expense.
- Parents and students are responsible should any property be damaged.
- Shirts and shoes are to be worn at all times
- Rooms are to be locked at all times
- Courtesy is expected from all band members while dining. These facilities are used by other groups and the general public as well.
- Any souvenirs that you bring home should be purchased, not “borrowed” (ie. Signs, dishes...etc)
- Please refrain from playing your instrument while in your hotel room
- All school rules will be enforced
- No one is allowed to leave the group setting without the permission of the directors. Any student found doing so will suffer disciplinary action.
- Profanity is not a part of the Milton Band program. Make sure your language is never offensive while with the band.
- Follow all instructions of Directors and chaperones at all times. If you do not understand, ask...don't guess!

BAND MEMBERS ARE EXPECTED TO BE AT THE RIGHT PLACE, AT THE RIGHT TIME, WITH THE RIGHT EQUIPMENT AND READY TO GO ON ALL BAND TRIPS! ADHERING TO THE PRINTED ITENERARY IS VITAL FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE TRIP. ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT THE WISHES OF AN INDIVIDUAL NEVER OVER-RIDES THE COMFORT OF THE GROUP. BAND TRIPS ARE JUST THAT “BAND TRIPS”. DO NOT CONFUSE THEM WITH FAMILY VACATIONS WHERE PLANS MAY BE CHANGED ON A WHIM!

EVERY MEMBER OF THE MILTON BAND PROGRAM WILL BE GIVEN A TRAVEL FORM TO COMPLETE THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL. THIS MUST BE SIGNED AND RETURNED BEFORE ANY SCHEDULED EVENT SO THE DIRECTORS AND CHAPERONES ALWAYS KNOW HOW TO BEST ASSIST IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY SITUATION.

Football Game Procedures

- Students will check out their uniform for each performance
- Ponchos and woodwind instrument cases will be taken into the stadium if there is a threat of rain
- Plumes will be issued prior to halftime and picked up after the performance
- Percussionists, colorguard, sousaphone and other large equipment need to be ready to load early for away games
- All band instruments and equipment must be sparkling and “ready to go” for inspection
- No band member is permitted to leave the organization in advance of group dismissal at any time, unless excused by the directors, in which case a note from the parents is needed
- While seated in the stadium, only band members are allowed in the ranks, and the band will always sit in assigned sections and seats
- Attention should be given to drum majors and directors at all times while the game is underway
- We will play only as a group while in the stands. Solo performance is strictly forbidden. Any section cheers or selections must be rehearsed by the section leader and approved by the directors prior to public performance.
- No inappropriate cheers are ever allowed
- Band members should avoid jumping as the team scores, as this type of enthusiasm may result in damage to an instrument, plus our best support to our team comes from our music!
- In order to move in an organized fashion, we must be able to give instructions in a rapid manner. Everyone will listen to the directors, staff and drum majors when directions are given.
- The band will march to the stadium and back from the stadium. Once we have returned to the band room area (home games) or bus area (away games), students will wait at attention for dismissal by the directors
- All performances are mandatory. If you are unable to attend a performance, you must provide written explanation in advance. Personal illness, death in the family, weddings and religious holidays are usually the only excuses for missing a rehearsal or performance.

Standards for Behavior on Buses

- Re-read the “Band Rules” and “Band Traveling Rules” found in this handbook.
- Chaperones should check over each bus before anything is loaded and relay any problems to the driver and band directors.
- Chaperones should load before the students and spread out through the bus. The front seats on both sides of the aisle are reserved for the directors and staff members.
- Students must ride on the bus that you sign up on. Do not change buses!
- Students are not to put anything on the bus until told to do so by a chaperone or staff member.
- Roll must be checked before the bus moves and after any stop at which anyone gets off the bus.
- The bus driver is to be treated with respect. Different drivers have different standards and whatever the driver says goes!
- Nothing is ever to protrude outside the bus windows (head, arm, instruments, etc) nor should any item ever be thrown or dropped out of a window.
- Normal conversation is appropriate; shouting or screaming is not. Singing may or may not be ok, depending on the driver, content and musicality. Good singing might be acceptable, bad singing never is.
- Radios, tape players or CD players are not permitted on school buses. On longer trips, these items may be used as long as headphones are used. Remember that no one but you should hear your CD player.
- You are to sit in your assigned seat. You signed up for it, so you must sit in it. Chaperones may re-assign seats if they deem it necessary; students may also be assigned to a different bus at any time at the discretion of the director.
- Students are not permitted to change out of the uniform unless instructed to do so by a director.
- To avoid problems, bus windows should stay up as we enter or leave another school campus.
- All students are to keep the bus clean at all times. At the end of the trip, every student should check the area around which he was sitting, including the floor and overhead storage. Band officers have the responsibility to see that the bus is left in proper condition.
- A public display of affection between students is not allowed on any bus at any time.
- Be courteous and do what the chaperones ask the first time they ask! Always remember to thank the drivers and chaperones when we return.

Contests and Festivals

Contests, Festivals and other adjudicated events are important features of the Milton High School band program. It is through these activities that we obtain feedback about our progress as individual musicians and as an ensemble. Although we never “live or die” by any one judge’s or panel of judge’s opinion of our performance, it is important that we learn the value of giving maximum effort and standing by the results as our best possible effort on that day.

Competitive performances are packed with emotion. Because of the amount of time, work and discipline required to produce an award-winning performance, we develop great camaraderie within the organization. We share hardship, discomfort, fatigue, heat, cold, disappointment, fears, tears, joys and success. Along with these emotions goes a high level of tension which can often cause students to react immaturely. We learn to avoid these normal pitfalls and to channel our energy and attention toward the goal of performance excellence and the ultimate success that will follow.

The Milton Band will stand with silent pride as scores are announced and graciously accept the results, regardless of outcome. We show our appreciation and respect for those who have earned the right to score ahead of us and gracefully accept our own successes. Many of our competitors will not understand that we are able to congratulate those who are ahead of us and appreciate their performance. These are the people who will not ever know the true reason for participating in a competition, but will mistakenly equate winning with coming in first. We will come in first when we deserve to based on our performance. Until then, we know “winning” is the state of every individual having endured the hardships, take the chance of competing and done their personal best in their own “commitment to excellence”.

The bands image is based on each individual. Our public reputation is based upon our appearance, our actions and our projection of pride. It is the responsibility of each band member, parent and staff member to insure that we present the best possible image at all times.

Solo and Ensemble Festival

The Georgia Music Educators’ Association Solo and Ensemble festival is held in November each year. This event gives students an opportunity to excel individually or in small groups. Students may select their own music or the directors may assist in the selection process. There will be an entry fee assessed for each event entered.

Honor Bands, All State Band and Governor’s Honors Program

The Milton Band has developed a tradition over the past several years of having one of the highest number of participants from a single school in the All State Band and Orchestras. This tradition has come about due to the outstanding individual musicians that make up the Milton Band. There is a two fold audition process for both the All State Band and Governor’s Honors Program. Other important honor groups include the District Five Honor Band and the Fulton County Honor Band.

Other Honor Band opportunities may be available to Milton band students during the school year, either based on audition or application. These events include the University of Georgia JanFest, The University of Alabama Honor Band Festival, The Georgia Southern University Band Clinic, The University of South Carolina Band Clinic, the Jacksonville State University Southerner’s Honor Band and the Troy State University Honor Band Clinic. Students will be notified of these events at the appropriate times.

Daily Warm Up Tips and Techniques

I. Warm Up

This part of your daily playing is the most important part. Therefore, use it with great care!

- Don't play in the upper register
- Don't play too low at first
- Don't play too loud
- Don't play too soft

Play in your middle register, mezzo-forte and gradually extend the register and dynamics as your lips and embouchure begin to respond with agility and flexibility.

II. Techniques

Strive to master all phases of your instrument not just one part or the part that you already do well. Work for progress and results. The four big "dos" for focus during a practice session:

- Do work to increase breathing capacity and support
- Do work to develop embouchure strength and flexibility
- Do work to increase speed and strength of fingers
- Do work to increase tonguing abilities

Each day, attempt to strengthen your breathing technique and gain better control; attempt to strengthen your lip muscles to gain endurance in you playing (long tones are the best); attempt to strengthen your finger muscles for better dexterity and control (a metronome is your best friend here); attempt to strengthen your tonguing muscles to gain control, evenness and speed (in this order...never speed first!)

III. Other Phases (to be covered as needed)

- Range (especially brass)
- Altissimo exercises (clarinets and saxophones)
- Scales and arpeggios
- Interval studies (3rds, 4ths and 5ths)
- Lip slurs (brass)
- Chords (broken arpeggios)
- Single/double/triple tonguing
- Flexibility exercises
- Long tones with crescendos and decrescendos
- Sight reading skills

Private Lessons

Private lessons are the key to developing an outstanding musical organization. Students who study their instruments privately with a professional show rapid improvement in individual musicianship. As you improve individually, your ensemble improves. As you improve as an individual musician, your excitement towards practicing improves and your ability to contribute to the ensemble improves. The directors will assist you, if needed, in selecting a private instructor. You should screen your teacher carefully and check references if at all possible. Private lessons are the key to excellence on your instrument and the key to your selection for membership in all county and all state band and orchestra, so start as soon as possible.

Student Leaders

The band council is a group of leaders that work with the directors in an advisory capacity. These students will also be called on for special presentations to accept awards, have pictures taken with political representatives, etc, on behalf of the band. The Band Council is made up of the Band President, Vice-Presidents (two or three), the Drum Majors, the Colorguard Captains, the section leaders, and other band officers. Band officer auditions are held in the spring of each year. To be eligible for an office, candidates must be full participants in the band program, exemplary in attitude, loyalty, dedication, and willing to give of their personal time for the betterment of the Milton Band. One of the primary assignments of all the officers will be the bands morale. Drum Majors and Colorguard Captains are selected by competitive audition each spring. Other band officers will apply for their desired position and complete an interview and audition process.

All student leaders will carry out the policies of the band, the directors, the school and administration to the best of their abilities. Any of you question or disagree with specific instructions from a student leader, please avoid confrontation and discuss the problem with the band president, drum majors and ultimately the directors at your earliest convenience. Student leaders can not give permission to miss a rehearsal or performance, be tardy or leave an event early. Student leaders should be positive and work in the best interest of the Milton High School Band.

Band Boosters

Parents are an important part of the Milton Band program, and have a vital role to play. Without the assistance of and cooperation of the band parents, there would be no chance to reach the level of performance and excellence we aspire to. There are many things parents can do:

- Attend monthly Band Booster Club meetings held in the band room.
- Volunteer for parent committees. There are many different committees from which to choose: chaperones, uniforms, transportation, equipment, and publicity are a few of the numerous committees.
- Be supportive of the band program and your child's participation by:
 1. Assisting your child to be prepared and punctual for every rehearsal and performance
 2. Notifying the directors if your child is to be absent or late for a performance or rehearsal. This should be done in advance except in emergency situations.
 3. Encouraging your child to practice at home and help them find a quiet place to do so.
 4. Showing your interest and support in your child's music study by enthusiastically attending every performance possible.
 5. Discussing with the directors and staff anything that will help them understand and better serve your child.
 6. Arranging for private lessons for your child if at all possible.