

SENTINEL HIGH SCHOOL

PERFORMING ARTS

DEPARTMENT

HIGH SCHOOL BAND

2026-27



SENTINEL HIGH SCHOOL BAND

Director of Bands: Mr. Lewis Nelson
Sentinel Band Office: 728-2400, ext 7041

Booster website: www.sentinelband.org

Mr. Nelson's teacher webpage: www.mcpsmt.org/Domain/3080

Facebook Page: Friends & Alumni of Sentinel Band

Email: lnelson@mcpsmt.org

Welcome to the Sentinel Band Program!

The main goal of Sentinel's Band Program is to offer a variety of opportunities to make you a better player, performer, listener, and person. Sentinel offers three high school concert bands, two jazz ensembles, a percussion ensemble, a marching band (including drumline), and a basketball pep band. There will also be opportunities for students to audition for the Montana All-State Band, perform at District Solo and Ensemble festivals, State Solo and Ensemble festivals, and other festivals listed within this document.

In order to participate in band, each parent/guardian needs to complete the following tasks. Please turn all forms in to Mr. Nelson's box outside his office by September 4.

1. Turn in the Participation Agreement (page 7) and pay the \$20 per-class course fee via Infinite Campus in mid-September. Please email Kaitlyn Brandenburg if you need help paying the fee(s) on Infinite Campus: kbrandenburg@mcpsmt.org. If you cannot afford these fees, please email Mr. Nelson to schedule a payment plan or apply for scholarship help. No student will be turned away due to finances.
2. Concert band uniform — Students will be responsible for acquiring their own concert uniform. There are two uniform options. Option 1 — Black dress slacks, black Dinkle Glide marching shoes (preferred brand), and black socks. Mr. Nelson will supply a black band shirt to new band students. Students in wind ensemble and/or jazz gold, please also purchase a black sports coat. Option 2 — A "concert black" full-length dress – no short skirts please. If you cannot afford these items, please email Mr. Nelson.
3. Marching band uniform — All students new to the band will be given a black band shirt. When performing, students are responsible for wearing black bottoms, black socks, and black marching/dress shoes (see #2 above). Ladies: if you don't own black dress pants, feel free to wear black leggings or something equivalent. If you need to borrow black shoes, please see Mr. Nelson.
4. If you are renting a school instrument (this includes percussionist), please fill out and turn in page 9. Make all checks out to "Sentinel High School Band." Please rent or buy instruments like flutes, clarinets, alto/tenor saxophones, trumpets, and trombones from a music store. Sentinel has a very limited inventory of these instruments. There are two "local" rental options. Music and Arts and Music Medics. To order an instrument from Music & Arts, do the following: go to <https://www.musicarts.com/rentals>, click "Rent Now," type "Sentinel High School," then select grade level to access.
5. Please make sure your contact information is up to date with the district. If you are not receiving emails from me or other teachers/administrators, that means your contact information is not up to date with the district or your email account is blocking our emails. Please email Jennifer Owen (jowen@mcpsmt.org) at Sentinel to ensure your information is up to date if you are not receiving school emails. You should have received this handbook in a digital format by now.

This packet also includes the following (Please **KEEP** these documents):

- A calendar — some things on this calendar may change. Mr. Nelson will email with any changes. Please add these dates to your family calendar.
- A copy of how to letter in band. Students should save this form for the end of the year.
- Info on how to earn a graduation cord.
- A list of private lesson teachers.
- All rules and grading policies can be found on my school's webpage. Earning an A in band is easy as long as you show up to rehearsals and performances on time, have a great attitude, and complete assignments throughout the year.

I hope all parents/legal guardians and students will participate in the band program with appreciation, understanding, and commitment. Students that buy into the program will accomplish amazing things!
Welcome to the Sentinel Band family! I am very excited to work with all of you!

Lewis Nelson

Private Lessons – You Keep this form

Private lessons are strongly encouraged to all students. I recommend lessons for any student, regardless of level - beginning through advanced. We are very lucky in Missoula, due to the University, to have access to so many incredible private teachers. Most communities and students do not have this opportunity.

Flute	Dr. Joanna Berg - joannanora@gmail.com 406-431-7862
Oboe	Susi Stipich - sstipich@hotmail.com
Bassoon	Alicia McLean - basunist@msn.com
Clarinet	Chuck Florence - saxophones2@msn.com 406-546-9324 Kat Machek - katmachek01@gmail.com Savannah Holgate – 406-207-5502
Saxophone	Chuck and/or Brooke Florence - saxophones2@msn.com 406-546-9324 Jazz Saxophone: Loren Stillman – lorenstillman@gmail.com OR 917-374-7298
Horn	Rory Anderson - randerson@mcpsmt.org 406-880-9877 Madeleine Folkerts – madeleine.folkerts@mso.umt.edu
Trumpet	Bill Kautz – 612-210-0210, williamkautz@gmail.com
Trombone	Dr. Benedict Kirby – benedictkirby1966@gmail.com Rob Tapper - Rob.Tapper@mso.umt.edu
Euphonium/Tuba	Dr. Benedict Kirby – benedictkirby1966@gmail.com Kaleb Trippe - kalebtippe04@gmail.com
Percussion	Ed Stalling (Jazz/Latin drum set)- edstalling@yahoo.com Dr. Jacob Ransom (drum set/concert percussion)– 541-821-7554 Dr. Hannah Ransom (concert percussion) – 406-360-2415
Jazz Guitar	Jeff Troxel - jctroxel@bresnan.net , 307-272-9774 Owen Ross - 406-546-9372 Markus Van Tassell - 801-718-3845
Jazz Bass	Tommy Sciple – 504-952-1506 Ryan Davis - rsdavis@mcpsmt.org
PIANO	Jazz Piano: Dylan Bautista – 406-868-3924 Play Piano (lessons for all levels) - https://www.playpianomt.com/

Earning a cord

A cord is the rope that seniors wear over their gown during the graduation ceremony. Each colored cord designates an honor that a student earned/achieved during their time in high school. The band has their own cord that outstanding band students wear during graduation. In order to earn a band cord, a senior student must be in band all four years, letter in band 3 out of 4 years and have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher. This is a huge honor and hopefully each student will strive to earn it.

BAND PERFORMANCE DATES – YOU KEEP THIS FORM
PLEASE PUT THESE DATES INTO YOUR CALENDAR

Sept 12	Required for all – Marching Band Camp – 8:30am–2:30pm. We will meet at SHS to work on our halftime show and learn how to parade march as a full band. Please bring water, a sack lunch, healthy snacks and wear your marching shoes. <u>I know there are sports conflicts. Students, let Mr. Nelson know when you will be at camp and/or when you need to leave.</u>
Sept 18	Required for all – Sentinel Homecoming Marching Band vs Hellgate at MCPS Stadium– students will rehearse 3:45-5:00pm at SHS. Students, please eat and then go to the stadium. Please meet Mr. Nelson at the stadium at 6pm. We will warm up, unload the moving van, and begin playing immediately. The game will start at 7:00pm. We will play in the stands at the football game, and we WILL perform our halftime show tonight. Students will be released after 3 rd quarter. Students who stay for the full game can use this time towards a letter. <u>Note: If you are in an outside school sport or activity, please join us when your practice is finished. Just let Mr. Nelson know and we will work around it.</u> <u>Uniform: marching shirt, black pants, black socks, and black shoes.</u>
Sept 23	Required for jazz band gold – Jazz Concert with special guest artist, 7pm at Hellgate HS – more info to come!
Sept 25	Voluntary Pep Band vs. Butte at MCPS Stadium. We will have a quick rehearsal after school 3:45-5:00pm at SHS. We will meet at the stadium at 6:30pm.
Sept 29	Required Marching Band Rehearsal in preparation for UM Homecoming. Students, please talk to your coaches about this. 3:45-4:45.
Oct 3	Required for all- Marching Band at UM Homecoming parade – 7:00 am Meet at SHS. We will briefly practice parade marching, then will bus to the parade site and march the UM Homecoming Parade. After the parade, we will bus back to SHS. <u>Uniform: marching shirt, black pants, black socks, black shoes.</u>
Oct 13	Required for all - Fall Concert – 7:00 pm – CALL 6:00 pm, Gym
TBD	Volunteers/Pep Band – Football Playoffs!!!! Play in the stands and be loud! DRESS WARM! The goal is to have at least 60 students. These games count towards LETTERING in band!! They are low pressure and fun!
Nov 30	Required for Symphonic Band, Jazz Bands and Percussion Ensemble – Holiday Concert #1 – 7:00 pm - Call 6:15pm, Margaret Johnson Theatre
Dec 1	Required Wind Ensemble, and Concert Band - Holiday Concert #2 – 7:00 pm - CALL 6:15pm, Margaret Johnson Theatre
Feb 16	Wind Ensemble & Jazz Band Gold - performance with Meadow Hill and Porter Middle School – 7:00pm – Call 6:15pm, Margaret Johnson Theatre
Feb 22 or 23	Required for Concert, Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble, and Percussion Ensemble - UM Concert Band Festival – times TBD, day time performances
Feb 23	Required for Concert Band, Symphonic Band, and Percussion Ensemble – 7:00 pm, Margaret Johnson Theatre. <i>Call – 6:30pm</i>
March 1-2	Required for Wind Ensemble – AA Band Festival in Missoula – All students will rehearse all day and have two evening concerts at Hellgate High School.
March 16	Required for both jazz bands – Collab concert with Hellgate and Big Sky at Sentinel – 7pm – Call 6:15pm, Margaret Johnson Theatre
March 25-26	UM Jazz Festival – Both Jazz Bands, Times TBD
May 18	Required for all - End of year Banquet/Concert – 6:00pm, Large Gym

EXTRA-CURRICULAR/HONOR PERFORMANCE ENSEMBLE DATES – YOU KEEP THIS FORM

Date tbd	2025 Grizzly Marching Band Day – www.umd/music/ensembles grizzlymarchingband@gmail.com
Oct 14-16	All-State Band students only – Festival will be held in Bozeman. <u>Uniform: Concert dress. Wear nice school clothes during festival rehearsals (look professional).</u>
Mid November	UM All Star Band – More info to come!
March 19-21	All-State Jazz Band – Festival will be held in Missoula. Auditions will be recorded in the Fall.
April 17	District Music Festival/Solo/Ensemble
Early May	State Music Festival

PEP BAND SCHEDULE

I hope all students will consider joining the Pep Band! Each game and practice count towards lettering in band!!
I will release the practice and game schedule in November.

Please plan for dealing with any schedule conflict. Extreme care has been taken in constructing this calendar for balancing a quality music education experience with student and family interests and commitments. Remember if there are issues, please email Mr. Nelson. lnelson@mcpsmt.org I am very easy to work with as long as there is clear communication. Thank you!

HOW TO LETTER IN BAND

(Students save this form for the end of the year – fill it out as you go)

Band Letters are awarded by accumulating points of merit. Letters will be awarded when a student earns 450 points. Add up your totals and turn this form into Mr. Nelson. Mr. Nelson will let you know when it is due. You are on the honor system and it is your responsibility to keep track of your points. Students must participate in band for the entire year to earn a letter. **Note – If you drop band during the year, you forfeit all letter points. In addition, points reset on a yearly basis.*

CO-CURRICULAR

_____ Private Lessons on your band instrument - 30 points per 30-minute lesson/40 points per 45-60-minute lesson

_____ Leadership - 50 points for Drum Major or Section Leader where applicable

_____ Participation in an approved outside of SHS ensemble (MYS/All City Jazz) – 10 points per rehearsal,
50 points per performance

_____ Summer Band Camp - 25 points per day

PEP BAND

_____ 30 points for each event you attend (except the battle of the golden goat basketball game). This goes for 3rd and 4th quarter at football games, football playoffs, regular basketball games, basketball playoff games, and extra/outside rehearsals. **Please list all games that you attended on a separate sheet. Staple that sheet to this document.**

_____ 150 points if you play at BOTH boys and girls battle of the golden goat basketball games.

STUDENTS WHO PARTICIPATE IN TWO BAND CLASSES FOR THE ENTIRE YEAR

_____ 200 points

STUDENTS WHO PARTICIPATE IN THREE BAND CLASSES FOR THE ENTIRE YEAR

_____ 300 points

FESTIVAL

_____ 1. Solo at District - 50 points per performance – PLUS 25 points if you earn a superior

_____ 2. Ensemble at District - 50 points per performance – PLUS 25 points if you earn a superior

_____ 3. Solo at State - 50 points per performance – PLUS 50 points if you earn a superior

_____ 4. Ensemble at State - 50 points per performance – PLUS 50 points if you earn a superior

HONORS

_____ 1. All-State Band - 300 points

_____ 2. All-Northwest Band - 300 points

Total Points _____

Student Printed Name _____

Student Signature _____

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature confirming the point totals _____

**SENTINEL HIGH SCHOOL – PLEASE TURN THIS FORM INTO MR. NELSON
OR PLACE IN BAND BOX
ACKNOWLEDGMENT FORM, PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT**

Due: September 4 – Turn into Mr. Nelson

- We have read this document.
- We have a plan on acquiring a concert black uniform (see page 2)
- We have marked all required performance dates on our family's calendar and have brought any conflicts or concerns to Mr. Nelson's attention.
- Students are expected to maintain any school music equipment issued. Student and parents/legal guardians will be financially responsible for any damage or loss.
- Students are expected to abide by all rules and policies of Missoula County Public Schools, Sentinel High School and the Sentinel High School Performing Arts Department.
- Grades and school attendance are important. Students and parent(s)/guardians will work to ensure that students show up to school and keep their grades in all classes at a passing level.
- Members of the Sentinel Band Program are required to exhibit good character by being respectful to adults, teachers and their peers, working hard in school and in band, "Choosing to Do It Right – Always."
- **We understand there is a Course Fee of \$20 for each band class a student participates in.** Please pay this fee(s) through the infinite campus portal. If money is an issue, please reach out to Mr. Nelson.

Student's Name (Print)

Student's Signature

Date

Parent/Legal Guardian's Name (Print)

Parent/Legal Guardian's Signature

Date

SENTINEL HIGH SCHOOL BAND – DONATION/SPONSOR FORM

PLEASE TURN IN TO MR. NELSON

MONEY FROM THESE DONATIONS IS HOW WE HIRE COACHES AND MAINTAIN/REPLACE OLD EQUIPMENT. THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUSITY!

Band Sponsor/Donation Fund:

If you and/or your business are able to donate to the Sentinel Band program, please do so! These funds will be used to help scholarship students who cannot afford travel costs related to band, replace old instruments, pay for coaches, and other program costs as needed. Any amount is appreciated, but may we suggest \$10, \$25, \$50, or \$100+. Your generous contribution will be listed on all band programs for the 2026/27 year. Please write below how you would like to be listed in the program. If you give over \$200 we will include a logo on the program; please email the logo to Mr. Nelson. Please make checks out to Sentinel High School Band. The school district is a non-profit. EIN 81-0504312. Your gift may qualify as a charitable deduction for federal tax purposes. Mr. Nelson will mail a receipt.

Contribution Amount \$ _____

Pledge Name & Address: _____

Name as it is to appear on the Program: _____ ☐ Logo?

INSTRUMENT RENTAL CONTRACT
Missoula County Public Schools
Fine Arts Department

DATE: _____

INSTRUMENT: _____ INSTRUMENT NUMBER: _____

STUDENT: _____ GRADE: _____ SCHOOL : _____

Please read and initial the terms of Instrument Rental listed below:

- 1) I agree to see that the instrument is properly cared for and returned as agreed in this contract. I understand I will be held responsible for malicious or careless damage to the instrument and will make any restitution for its repair or replacement. ☐
- 2) I understand I am responsible for replacement of loss ligatures, lost mouthpieces, lost neck straps, broken strings or bridges. ☐
- 3) The instrument will be returned at the time stated in this contract. I understand that I must return this instrument immediately if I drop from the band or orchestra program or if I leave Missoula County Public Schools. ☐
- 4) I understand the Fine Arts Department's instrument inventory is self-funded. Fees received allow MCPS to provide low cost rentals to all. ☐

RENTAL FEES—HIGH SCHOOL

School Year Rental.....\$75.00

Shared Rental (consent of director).....\$35.00

Summer Rental.....\$30.00

Percussion Fee.....\$30.00

PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME: (print)

P/G Signature: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Zip: _____ Phone: _____

RETURN BY: After graduation

Today's Date: _____ Amount: _____

Check #: _____

Please make all checks out to Sentinel High School Band