

# Music Notes

February 2022  
Issue 1

Quarterly News from MMAC / Middie Music Boosters  
Supporting the musical arts at Middletown High School & Middletown Middle School

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## MUSIC | SCHEDULE

02/09 7p MMAC meeting  
02/15 7p MMS band concert  
02/17 7p MHS band concert  
02/22 7p MMS Orchestra concert  
02/22 2:15p Auditions for 2022-23 Show Choir  
02/24 Dine to Donate at City BBQ Voice of America, West Chester  
02/24 7p MHS Orchestra concert  
03/03 7p MHS Choir concert  
03/08 2:15p - 3p Marching Band Field Commander Clinic & Informational  
03/08 7p MMAC / Boosters meeting  
03/11 & 03/12 MMS musical - *Annie*  
04/08 & 04/09 MHS musical - *Little Shop of Horrors*  
04/09 Junior High Solo & Ensemble  
04/14 7p MMS Choir concert  
04/27 - 05/02 Disney trip  
07/24 - 07/29 Marching Band Camp



## Honor Band 2022

Senior band members, Ethan Wysong-Ward, trumpet, and Edward Furlow, clarinet (photo left), were selected to perform as part of this year's OMEA District XIII Honor Band, held at Mason High School and Mason Middle School January 14-16. This annual three-day music event, the most competitive in the state, features young musicians from area schools. Honor Band includes two days of music instruction for the

band with a guest conductor and culminates with a final concert on Sunday.

Congratulations to the following Middletown students who made District XIII Honor Band this year: Ethan Wysong-Ward, Edward Furlow, Logan Wysong-Ward, Isabella Falconi, Amehr Johnson, Lillian Nickoson, Sasi Scott, and Destiny Grier.



Left to right: Lillian Nickoson, 8<sup>th</sup> grade clarinet, and Saskia Scott, 8<sup>th</sup> grade trumpet; Amehr Johnson, 7<sup>th</sup> grade clarinet; High School Honor Band group.

## UPCOMING CONCERT FUNDRAISERS

For the upcoming Winter Concert Series, MMAC will be hosting another pre-concert fundraiser. Starting at 6:15pm prior to each concert in the MHS Auditorium, iced music note cookie-grams will be available for purchase for your favorite music student for \$4.00! Cookies can be delivered backstage to your student or hand-delivered by you.

MMAC and the music departments appreciate your participation and support in these concert fundraisers. If you would like to volunteer to setup and work any concert fundraiser, please contact Shana Crain or Sarah Allen. Volunteer time with MMAC counts toward student NHS hours.



# Destination Disney

By Corey Hall, Orchestra Director

## We are a few short weeks away from our departure date!

I want to ensure that we have a good line of communication as things start to move faster, so I am going to try email instead of the BRT portal. Hopefully this will make it easier to share attachments, etc. **Orchestra, Show Choir / Combo students** who are going on the Disney trip will get updates along with parents. If you are on this list and should not be, please let me know and I will fix it!

**GOOD NEWS!** You may recall that our trip price was based on having 100 passengers and that with only 75 passengers, our price was to increase by an additional \$160 per person. Thanks to the generosity of a multitude of community members, "grown-up" former students, local/not-so-local businesses, and our parent music booster group, that ENTIRE extra cost is covered for everyone. You may or may not see that \$160 applied to the balance... I don't know how Bob Rogers will handle it. Rest assured that if it *does* show up on the trip balance, it will be covered. :)

**REMIND APP** - We are using the Remind app for quick reminders and announcements... fundraiser materials, quick reminders, delivery updates, other things that do not require a whole email, etc. Please contact me or Joe Woodring for instructions to join the Remind group. We will also be using this during the trip.

**PARENT MEETING** - There will be a mandatory parent / student meeting in early April to go over trip expectations and additional information. We hope to have a date by the end of February, and as soon as it is scheduled, we will let you know!

**FINAL PAYMENT** - Just a reminder that the final payment date for the trip is March 15th.

Please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions you might have.

## AUDITIONS

### WIND ENSEMBLE 2022-23

Audition recordings due 02/18. See Mr. Leisten for more information.

### MHS Show Choir 2022-23

Tuesday, 02/22 2:15p; see Mr. Woodring for more information.

### Middie Marching Band 2022-23 Field Commander

Tuesday, 03/08 2:15-3:00p  
Audition Informational Meeting & Clinic

## UPDATES

### MARCHING BAND GROUP PHOTOS

Lifetouch sent misprinted prints of the group panoramic. We are expecting new photo proofs soon.

### MARCHING BAND INDIVIDUAL PHOTOS

To be determined by availability of group panoramic photos.  
Announcement to come.

## Show Choir

MHS Show Choir, under direction of Joseph Woodring, performed at the 2021 holiday concert. Right is a group photo. What holiday event would be complete without festive sweaters? And a nod to choreographers Kelvin Mantay and Alvin Mantay!

Photo by Kandi Barnes



## VOLUNTEER DATES

### Tuesday 03/08 at 7pm Monthly MMAC Meeting

Join the MMAC board, trustees, & volunteers at our next Boosters meeting. Getting involved is the best way to support music education in Middletown.

MMAC meetings are monthly, on the second Tuesday of the month in the MHS band room.

### TBD

### MMAC Cornhole Tournament & Food Truck Rally

MMAC will host this event in late spring. Looking for member to join planning committee.

Need food truck vendors (dine to donate) and parent & student volunteers to run beverage fundraiser booth and raffle. In search of loaned cornhole equipment. Event location to be determined.

Pre-paid \$30 entry fee per team. Outdoor, double-elimination on 8 to 12 courts. Open to the public. Raffle, vendors, music, & food trucks. Spectators welcome. Free admission & lawn chairs permitted. Check-in at 12:30pm.

Contact:  
mmacpresidentmhs@gmail.com

## Giving & Fundraising Results

*By Shana Crain, MMAC President*

Music programs at MHS and MMS have a variety of expenses, including uniform maintenance, transportation, choreography, copyrights, and competition entry fees. While the school and district contribute to some of these costs, MMAC is responsible for filling the financial gap. MMAC has had several group fundraisers that benefit the bottom line of our music programs, and we ask you to do your part to promote these opportunities through volunteer time and word of mouth.

**CONCESSIONS** - One of the most successful continuing fundraisers is concessions. The concession stands at boys' varsity football and basketball games are staffed by music booster volunteers (parents and students like yourselves) and make up about 50% of our annual funds. Since basketball season is just now coming to an end, and costs for football and basketball concessions crossover, we do not have final numbers yet.

**LIGHT UP MIDDLETOWN** - A giant THANK YOU is due to those parents and students who volunteered to work the entrance booth at Light Up Middletown (LUM)! The partnership between MMAC and LUM is one of our most cherished and has lasted many years. This year, LUM made a generous contribution of **\$1450** to MMAC for our volunteer time! Every dollar goes right back into the music programs at MHS and MMS. We are grateful for anyone who worked one of the 28 shifts and for those who worked several.

**GIVING TUESDAY** - 2021 was our first year participating in Giving Tuesday and we raised **\$3840** for the Disney trip, with Facebook and Boeing matching **\$549.55!**

**CONCERT FUNDRAISERS** - You likely noticed the hundreds of roses at our fall concerts this year. MMAC has started a new fundraiser, hoping not only to generate funds for each individual group, but also honor our hard-working student musicians! Benefits from sales of roses, candy canes, and (for upcoming winter concerts) cookies directly support band, choir, and orchestra, respectively.

**INDIVIDUAL FUNDRAISERS** - The help pay for the required fees for activities (marching band, Disney trips, show choir uniforms, etc.), Directors and MMAC have planned several fundraisers that benefit students' individual accounts. These include Pie Peddler, Cookie Dough, and Holiday Wreaths in the fall and Popcorn Pizzaz and Flower Power in the spring. While these fundraisers are optional, they do add to your student's account and lower the fees you owe.

Thank you for your dedication of time, effort, and dollars to support our students in this special organization. This experience is memorable for both you and your student.

## Support Middie Music with AmazonSmile & Kroger Rewards

**AmazonSmile** is a simple and automatic way for you to support MMAC and the musical arts every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you will find the exact same low prices, vast selection, and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, and Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to the musical arts at Middletown High School. • Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases. **Visit [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and add Middletown Musical Arts Club as your charity of choice.**

**Kroger Community Rewards** is committed to helping our communities grow and prosper. Year after year, local schools, churches, and other nonprofit organizations, including MMAC, will earn millions of dollars through Kroger Community Rewards. Kroger Community Rewards makes fund-raising easy... all you have to do is shop at Kroger and swipe your Plus Card! • **Visit [www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards](https://www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards) and select Middletown Music Boosters as your charity of choice.**



## Varsity Winter Guard Makes Worlds

By Shana Crain, MMAC President



Middletown High School Varsity Winter Guard came in 4<sup>th</sup> overall and 4<sup>th</sup> in their class at the 2022 WGI Guard Indianapolis Regional at Avon High School on February 12-13. Nearly 60 guard groups performed over the two-

day event, with exciting shows from groups across six different divisions. Varsity Guard competes in the Scholastic A class, and 24 total teams competed in that class. Middletown Winter Guard qualified for WGI Color Guard World Championships, to be held in Dayton, OH April 7-9.

## OMEA DISTRICT XIII Solo & Ensemble

By David Leisten, MHS Band Director

On January 31, several Middletown High School band students traveled to Blanchester High School for the OMEA District XIII Solo and Ensemble Adjudicated Event. Students finished with 10 Superior (1) ratings and 5 Excellent (2) ratings overall. A total of 15 AMAZING accomplishments.

I can't express how incredibly proud I am of EVERY band student who participated in solo and ensemble contest today. Playing by yourself or in small groups is the hardest thing to do as a musician. There is a special joy I get in seeing our students succeed in this type of setting that is different than what you get in a concert or marching band performance. This experience makes you a better musician, and that is the end goal.

Congratulations to the following participants: Edward Furlow, Melody Grams, Audrey Allen, Josh Mumford, Trinity Whitley, Jordan Johnson, Kaitlyn Banks, Ethan Wysong-Ward, Alexis Johnson, Tyler Poynter, Steven McDonough, Cohen Nicholas, Lucy Strothman, Gabe Gasper, Emily Shaver, Jaden Rogers, Logan Wysong-Ward, Audrey Barnes and Colin Dobroszi!

## RECOGNITIONS



### NOAH LOCKE SIGNED WITH THE UD FLYERS

Noah Locke, senior Symphony Orchestra member and bass player, has signed with University of Dayton for Cross Country. Noah is part of the MHS chapter of NHS and has volunteered with MMAC. Congratulations, Noah!



### ETHAN WYSONG-WARD AWARDED MIAMI SCHOLARSHIP

Ethan Wysong-Ward, senior Wind Ensemble member and trumpet player, will be utilizing a merit scholarship of \$10,000 per year for four years at Miami University Oxford at the College of Engineering and Computing for a degree in computer science. Ethan is also a member of the MHS chapter of NHS. Congratulations, Ethan!



Left to right: Freshmen Tyler Poynter & Alexis Johnson, trumpets; Saxophone ensemble, including Gabe Gasper, Jaden Rogers, Logan Wysong-Ward, Steven McDonough, Audrey Barnes, Colin Dobroszi.



## 2021-2022 Pep Band Photo Drop





## Superior Marching, Superior Memories

### Why I'm a Band Mom

By Brandy Rogers, MMAC Secretary

All through parenthood, we hear and say that our kids have grown in the blink of an eye. Man, there are no truer words. As a "Senior Parent," this past Marching Band season was bittersweet for us as we watched our seniors march for the last time. Volunteering with my fellow Performing Arts parents has been the biggest blessing in disguise; and I can't say enough about the experiences I have been awarded by being part of such a hardworking, caring, and generous group of peers.

I am thankful for being able to participate with the music boosters alongside some of the greatest kids—YOUR kids—for the past few years. I have made some awesome memories with all my band kiddos and made some amazing friends along the way! If you are new to the program, I highly encourage participating in volunteer opportunities as it is so very rewarding with each event we have.



By hanging out with your kiddos on a bus as a chaperone on competition day, I was not only able to also see my son contribute to a team but see him and his peers celebrate a Superior rating time and time again. There is something special about seeing 130 hot, sticky kids scream their heads off at the announcement of their well-earned Superior rating.

I am thrilled to have children involved in what I consider the best program our district offers. I am forever grateful to Directors David Leisten and Amy Hoevel for the positive impact they had on my son's life. The music directors, other leaders of our students, and music booster volunteers are outstanding, and you can actively see the impact they have on our kids by chaperoning a bus trip, putting "chickens" in hats as a uniform volunteer, or by making sure marchers are well nourished with meals and drinks before their upcoming performance.

If you have one day to give time as a chaperone or one evening to volunteer for fundraising events, I promise you will enjoy your time and leave with some pretty awesome memories! Be careful saying "I'll go next week," however. We know what happens when we blink.

## MMAC NEEDS

### GRILL REPAIR

Concessions Committee is in search of a technician to repair & clean two propane grills at Barnitz stadium. One grill has defective wheels; the second will not pump fuel. Contact: [mmacpresidentmhs@gmail.com](mailto:mmacpresidentmhs@gmail.com)

### ELECTRIC WARMER PUMP

Concessions Committee needs three pumps for nacho cheese with easy-clean liner. Contact: [mmactreasurer@yahoo.com](mailto:mmactreasurer@yahoo.com)

## MMAC EXECUTIVES

### EXECUTIVE BOARD

Shana Crain, President  
Kandice Barnes, Vice President  
Brandy Rogers, Secretary  
Sarah Allen, Treasurer  
Arica Ratliff, Treasurer

### MUSIC DIRECTORS

David Leisten, MHS Band  
Amy Hoevel, MHS Band  
Ashley Martin, MMS Band  
Joseph Woodring, MHS Choir  
Christian Longberry, MMS Choir  
Stephanie Miller, Guard  
Corey Hall, Orchestra

### MMAC CONTACT

[mmaccontact@yahoo.com](mailto:mmaccontact@yahoo.com)  
[mmactreasurer@yahoo.com](mailto:mmactreasurer@yahoo.com)  
[mmacpresidentmhs@gmail.com](mailto:mmacpresidentmhs@gmail.com)

## Content Request & Deadline for Newsletter Contributions

The MMAC newsletter team is currently looking for additional content for future issues of *Music Notes*, including articles giving updates for all music classes, activities, and committees. We invite Members (Directors, parents/guardians, students, school administrators) to submit articles and photos for publication and potential topics for Band, Choir, Guard, Orchestra, and including past and future music department events, shows, music culture, alumni features, student involvement, to name a few.

Issues of *Music Notes* will be released quarterly in the months of February, May, August, and November.

**SUBMISSION DEADLINES** – If you wish to submit an article, photos, or information for publication, please email it to Shana Crain at [mmacpresidentmhs@gmail.com](mailto:mmacpresidentmhs@gmail.com) no later than the **second Monday of the publication month**. Note that articles received will be reviewed by the *Music Notes* team prior to publication and may be edited with discretion for length or grammatical errors. **Deadline for the May 2022 issue is: 05/09/2022.**

**CONTENT REQUEST** – Seniors and parents, we need photos of CLASS OF 2022 music students with their instruments at the start of their music education and during the 2021-22 school year OR photos of seniors with their parents or their instrument. Submit to Shana Crain at [mmacpresidentmhs@gmail.com](mailto:mmacpresidentmhs@gmail.com) by the submission deadline.