

## Morton High School Band Course Options

First Semester	Second Semester
<p><b>Woodwinds and Brass-</b> All woodwind and brass students participating in Marching Band during the fall are required to enroll in this class. During this class, students will work as an ensemble to rehearse their marching band show, practicing their musical, visual, and creative responsibilities during the school day.</p>	<p><b>Concert Band-</b> Students will audition into their second semester ensembles, regardless of their placement the previous year. Concert Band serves as a building ensemble where players at many different skill levels can continue to improve on their instrument. Students looking to perform on a secondary instrument are encouraged to enroll in this class as well.</p>
<p><b>Percussion-</b> All percussion students (front ensemble and drumline) participating in Marching Band during the fall are required to enroll in this class. During this class, students will work with staff to practice their exercises, enhance visual elements, and add creativity to the overall marching band show.</p>	<p><b>Symphonic Band-</b> Students will audition into their second semester ensembles, regardless of their placement the previous year. Symphonic Band works to continue student growth as well as open students to the wider world of concert band literature. Students will be held to a high standard of performance and practice throughout the semester. Students will have the opportunity to perform in competition while being a part of this ensemble.</p>
<p><b>Color Guard-</b> All color guard students participating in Marching Band during the fall are required to enroll in this class. During this hour, guard members will be working with their instructional staff to continue to clean and refine choreo, flag work, and any other demands present in the marching band show.</p>	<p><b>Wind Ensemble-</b> Students will audition into their second semester ensembles, regardless of their placement the previous year. Wind Ensemble is the top ensemble at Morton High School and works to push students to their musical lengths. Students participating in this ensemble will be performing more advanced music with a higher demand than other ensembles. Students will also have the opportunity to record for the Illinois Super State Contest and represent Morton in this and other competitions.</p>
<p><b>Concert Band-</b> This class is for students who would like to continue learning their instrument but are not currently involved with the marching band. Students looking to try a new instrument are also encouraged to enroll in this class.</p>	

## Co-Curricular Ensembles

**Marching Band-** Marching Band at MHS meets during the school day and also rehearses outside of school during the first semester of the school year. Brass and woodwind students in this ensemble must be enrolled in the 5th hour marching band class. Percussion and color guard members must be enrolled in Marching Band Percussion and Guard. Auditions for the ensemble are held in the spring. Weekly full and sectional rehearsals begin in July, with a pre-band camp and a week of camp at MHS occurring at the end of July. 3-4 weekends per month are required in September and October. Some overnight travel each year. Students should be enrolled in concert band, in the spring semester to join marching band.

## Extra Curricular Ensembles

First Semester	Second Semester
<p><b>Jazz Band-</b> First semester jazz band functions primarily as a place for students to learn the basics of jazz styles and interpretations. All variety of instruments are welcome in this ensemble, no matter how crazy! This ensemble is instructed by Mr. Jeff Arbisi.</p>	<p><b>Winter Guard-</b> Serving to continue student's growth from the fall season, winter guard also allows students the opportunity to continue in competition against fellow winter guards throughout the country. Students have the opportunity to spin flag, dance, and learn more advanced guard concepts. Winter guard rehearses outside of the school day. This program is coordinated and instructed by Mrs. Sara Gray.</p>
	<p><b>Winter Winds-</b> Similar to winter guard, our newly added Winter Winds ensemble competes with groups across the country in the WGI circuit. Winter Winds is composed of students in our brass and woodwinds sections but is open to any student currently in a musical ensemble at the high school. This ensemble rehearses outside of the school day and is coordinated by Mr. Tim Gray.</p>
	<p><b>Indoor Percussion-</b> Along the lines of our winter guard and winter winds, Indoor Percussion is a newly formed ensemble consisting of members from our front ensemble, drumline, wind players, as well as orchestra students looking to find something new. Indoor Percussion is open to any student currently in a musical ensemble at the high school. This ensemble rehearses outside of the school day and also competes on the WGI circuit, competing against ensembles from throughout the region. Indoor percussion is coordinated by Mr. Craig Hatter.</p>
	<p><b>Jazz Band-</b> Second semester Jazz Band is a more focused, standard ensemble made up of the primary big band instrumentation. This ensemble looks to develop students playing ability, improvisation chops, and ability to play in a smaller ensemble. This ensemble is instructed by Mr. Jeff Arbisi.</p>

We know that this is a lot of information to be thrown at you as an incoming 8th grade student/parent! We hope that when you look at this list you find something that speaks to you as something that you would like to try when you move forward into high school. If you have any questions, please feel free to email Tim Gray (Director of Bands) via email at [tim.gray@mcusd709.org](mailto:tim.gray@mcusd709.org) or Craig Hatter (Assistant Band Director) at [craig.hatter@mcusd709.org](mailto:craig.hatter@mcusd709.org).