



BAND NOTES

September 2026

Monthly Newsletter for Band Enthusiasts



Check out the full year
[band calendar online](#)

5th Grade Band

- **5th Grade 2nd Lesson Night**,
Wed Sep 23,
4-5 pm Trumpets MIHS Rm 505 &
Flutes Rm 503; 5:15-6:15 pm
Clarinets MIHS Rm 505 &
Trombones Rm 503
- **First Full Week of class**
Monday, 9/28; Before School
IMS or MIHS;
- **Marching Band Rehearsal –All
Island Band Night**, Thu Oct 15,
6 - 7:30 pm, MIHS Stadium
- **All Island Band Night**, Fri Oct
16, 5 - 10 pm, MIHS Stadium
- **Band Together Party &
Fundraiser** for Parents, Sat Nov
7, 7 - 9 pm,
MI Community Center

Islander Middle School

- **Marching Band Rehearsal –All
Island Band Night**, Thu Oct 15,
6th & 7th grade @ 6 - 7:30pm,
8th grade @ 6- 8:15 pm, MIHS
Stadium

Why Choose Band?

From 5th grade through high school, music education helps students develop far more than musical skills.

Students build discipline, responsibility, teamwork, creativity, confidence, and perseverance. As they progress through their school years, band participation creates a sense of belonging, develops leadership skills, teaches collaboration, and provides meaningful opportunities for personal growth. Students learn to set goals, overcome challenges, perform under pressure, and contribute to something larger than themselves. These lessons extend far beyond the classroom and prepare students for success in college, careers, and life.

Key Benefits by Grade Level:

5th-6th Grade

- Builds confidence and self-expression
- Develops focus, listening, and practice habits
- Creates friendships and a sense of belonging
- Encourages responsibility and perseverance

Middle School

- Strengthens teamwork and collaboration
- Develops problem-solving and critical thinking skills
- Provides positive peer connections
- Increases engagement with school activities

High School

- Builds leadership and mentorship skills
- Teaches time management and commitment
- Offers opportunities for achievement and performance

- **All Island Band Night**, Fri Oct 16, 5 – 10 pm, MIHS Stadium
- **Band Together Party & Fundraiser** for parents, Sat Nov 7, 7 – 9 pm, MI Community Center
- **IMS Band Concert - 6th, 7th, Beginning Instruments**, Thu Nov 19, 6:30 – 8 pm

Mercer Island High School

- **Marching Band Rehearsal**, Thu Sep 24, 6 pm - 9:30 pm, MIHS Stadium
- **Marching Band Football Game**, Fri Sep 25, **Call time: 3:45 pm**, Homecoming Parade 5 pm, Game: 7 pm
- **Wind Ensemble Rehearsal**, Wed Sep 30, 6 pm - 9:30 pm
- **Marching Band Rehearsal**, Wed Oct 7, 6 pm - 9:30 pm
- **Marching Band Photo**, Thu Oct 8, Time TBD
- **Marching Band Football Game**, Thu Oct 8, 5 pm – 10 pm
- **Marching Band Rehearsal -All Island Band Night**, Thu Oct 15, 6 pm - 9:30pm
- **Marching Band Football Game - All Island Band Night**, Fri Oct 16, 5 pm – 10 pm
- **Cancelled - Marching Band Event at UW**, Sat Oct 17
- **HS Jazz Festival - Mountlake Terrace HS**, Sat Oct 24, 8 am – 5 pm
- **Wind Ensemble Rehearsal**, Wed Oct 28, 7 pm – 9 pm
- **Eastshore HS Jazz Band Festival**, Thu Nov 5, 8 am – 4 pm
- **Band Together Party & Fundraiser** for parents, Sat Nov 7, 7 pm – 9 pm
- **MISD Jazz Symposium**, Tue Nov 10 – Thu Nov 12, Warm Beach Retreat Center
- **MIHS Wind Ensemble Rehearsal**, Wed Nov 18, 7 pm – 9 pm
- **WIBC - Optional Honor Group**, Fri Nov 20- 23, 8 am – 3 pm

- Creates lasting memories, friendships, and community connections

*At several selective universities, music participation correlates with strong outcomes: **Stanford reports that music-involved students make up the top 10% of its admitted applicants**, and **data from Dartmouth shows that over 65% of accepted students are involved in the arts, with music being a prominent component**. Additionally, a **2019 National Endowment for the Arts study found that students involved in music are twice as likely to rank in the top 5% of their high school class**, and the College Board reports that **music students applying to top-tier universities are accepted at rates 10–20% higher than their non-musically-inclined peers**, particularly when they have achieved regional or national recognition. These data demonstrate that sustained music participation not only enhances college applications but also aligns with broader indicators of academic and personal success.*

The Mercer Island Band Program Serves More than 600 Students Across the District in Grades 5 -12 —

1 in 4 MISD students participate in band. From 5th grade band to a 200+ Member MIHS Marching Band our program hosts 8 Concert Bands, 5 Jazz Bands, Animal Band (basketball), Pep Band for community events, Percussion Ensemble, as well as Soloists and Ensembles study. We provide instrument specific instruction and grouping for our youngest members by section to maximize success. We also provide 3 free private lessons through the Better Sooner Program for every 6th grader to help ensure a successful start.

In addition to providing first-rate music instruction and unparalleled performance opportunities, our inclusive band program welcomes every student, builds community, and teaches the core values of respect, teamwork, and personal responsibility to help students grow as both musicians and people. Students leave this program with friendships, life lessons, and leadership skills that serve them well beyond their school years. **Thank you for choosing Band!**

5th Grade Band 2nd Lesson

Coming up this week!



5th Grade 2nd Lesson Night, Wed Sep 23,
4-5 pm Trumpets MIHS Rm 505 & Flutes MIHS Rm 503
5:15-6:15 pm Clarinets MIHS Rm 505 &
Trombones MIHS Rm 503

First Full Week of class Monday, 9/28:

• Woodwind classes:

Flute & Clarinet are held at Islander Middle School and begin at 8:15 am

• Brass classes:

Trumpet & Trombone will be at Mercer Island High School, and begin at 8:10 am

Weekly Schedule:

- Monday: Clarinet (A-M), Trumpet, Trombone
- Tuesday: Trumpet, Trombone, Flute
- Wednesday: Clarinet (N-Z)
- Thursday: Trumpet, Trombone
- Friday: Flute, Clarinet (All)
- **Note:** All Percussion - beginning in January

Any Questions, check out the 5th Grade Band Program Packet or reach out to your band director.

IMS & MIHS Bands

Missed Curriculum Night or need a quick review?

Click through the presentation to explore band class information, program updates, and resources for students and families.

IMS Curriculum Night Information



Click to access the IMS Band Director's presentation.

Additional messages from your IMS Band Directors:

Assignments:

Please make sure your Band student completes these steps:

- Read the Band Handbook. **(See link below)**
- Sign page 11

MIHS Curriculum Night Information



"Soft skills like creative thinking are now the 'hard currency' of the AI-era job market."

— World Economic Forum, 2025/26

Click to access the MIHS Band Director's Curriculum Night presentation. Check out the Parent Hub on the MI Band website for helpful resources. If you have any questions, please reach out to your Band Director.

- Upload a photo of the signed page to Schoology.

Band Routines:

Help your student stay organized and ready for band!

- Bring your instrument to & from school every band day.
- Remember your band binder, book, and instrument.
- Families: A quick reminder at home can help students build good habits and take responsibility for their materials.

At-home Practice

Regular, focused practice helps students grow as musicians. Aim for 15–30 minutes, 5–7 days a week, adjusting to your student's needs and attention span. Short, consistent sessions are often more productive than one long session.

Tips for Families

- Show interest in your student's progress and celebrate their efforts.
- Help establish a regular practice time.
- Encourage your student to play for family and friends.
- Remind them that learning an instrument takes patience and perseverance!

Create a Practice Space

- Find a quiet spot with good lighting.
- Use a straight-backed chair and music stand.
- Keep music and instrument accessories nearby.

Want to support IMS Bands? We'd love your help!

- Volunteer: [Email Ms. Snyder](#) to share your time and talents.
- Shop our wishlist: Check out our [Band Amazon Wishlist](#).

Thank you for supporting our students and the IMS Band Program. Go Band! 🎵

[Course Syllabus Handbook](#)

MI Bands Parent Hub

FINALFORMS

What is FINAL FORMS?

FinalForms is our online platform for field trip permissions, trip behavior agreements, health information, and emergency contacts. Instead of completing multiple paper forms for every field trip or activity, parents & students can manage everything in one convenient location. Permission forms can be completed electronically, making it easier for students & parents to submit all permission approvals in a timely manner.

BOTH PARENTS & STUDENTS need to log into FinalForms and complete the required forms. Below is a quick refresher:

Parents

1. Go to the **FinalForms**
2. Select *Parent*
3. Complete the required forms and hit submit

Students

1. Go to the **FinalForms**
2. Select *Student*
3. Complete the required forms and hit submit

If you are new to FinalForms, please check out the Parent Playbook for more detailed instructions.

[Final Forms Parent Playbook](#)

2026 Marching Band Game Day Volunteers!

Volunteering at the MIHS Marching Band games are a great way to get involved, help your kids, and meet other people.

No training required!

[Traffic, Uniforms, & Plumes, Oh My! Sign Up Here!](#)



*Our procurement team is hard at work, the caterer is booked,
décor is being discussed, this party is ON!*

Don't miss our annual . . .

Band Together

Save-the-date: November 7, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.

Join Us at Band Together!

We are so excited for another Band Together community event, where we can celebrate our district's incredible Band program and everything it provides for Mercer Island students.

We are truly fortunate to have a world-class music education experience available to our students, and this is a wonderful opportunity to come together as a community and celebrate all that makes MI Band so special.

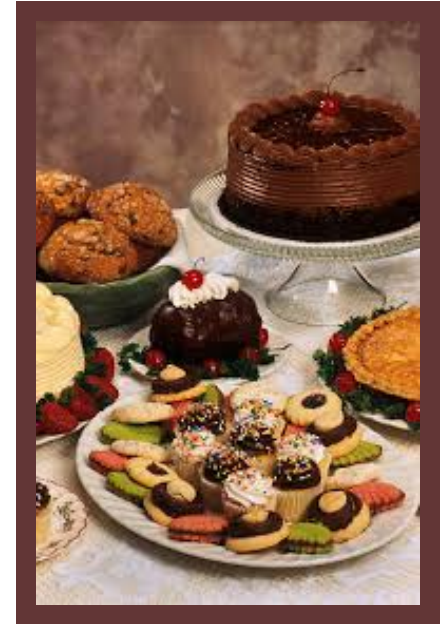
Let's Celebrate Band!

Not only will we enjoy a fun evening with fellow band families and supporters, but we'll also raise funds that directly support the enrichments, opportunities, and experiences that benefit every band student throughout the year.

As with any large community event, we need your help. We are incredibly grateful for our amazing band parents who consistently step up to support this program. We'd love to see both familiar and new faces at Band Together to help make this event a huge success!

Why Join Us?

- Support MI Band
- Connect with longtime friends
- Meet new band families
- Celebrate our students and music program
- Help raise funds that directly benefit band students



Band Together's Groovy Dessert Dash 2026!

**Calling all Dessert Dashers,
Bakers and Lovers of
MI Band!**

Please sign up to donate one or more desserts (*homemade or otherwise acquired*) to help make this year's Band Together auction a huge and very groovy success!

Desserts will be displayed and auctioned after dinner to make the evening even sweeter!

Desserts should be enough to serve 10 people, please list relevant details (like flavors) and common allergens *Gluten, Dairy, Eggs, Nuts* in the comments.

We Need You!

Please plan to:

- Attend the event
- Sign up to volunteer
- Bring your enthusiasm and get ready for a fun evening celebrating all things MI Band

Volunteer sign-ups are now ready to go, and we'd love, love, love to see you there!

Volunteer Sign Up

Plan to deliver your desserts to the Mercer Island Community Center mid-day, Saturday, November 7.

Sign Up to provide a groovy dessert!



A message from your Band Together Auction & Procurement Committee:

We're Seeking Community Support to Fund Scholarships, Music Education, and Essential Band Program Resources.

Three ways you can help:

1. **Donate Gift Cards or Items** for our November 7 Band Together Auction.
2. **Donate Funds** and be recognized as a 2026-2027 Band Sponsor
3. **Host a Dine Out Night** with a % of proceeds donated to the Band (for local restaurants)



Thank you to our 2026-27 Band Sponsors

