



Dear Band Members and Parents:

I am writing to you with much excitement for the upcoming school year and marching band season. I am looking forward to meeting and getting to know each and every one of you and your parents.

Having watched (and competed with) the Mohonasen band since I was in the Medina High School band, I know the excellence with which you have become accustomed. (I was frustrated as a kid to lose to Mohonasen!) I have dedicated myself to the band program at Mohonasen High School and know that the experiences we are about to share will be rewarding, memorable and musical. You will see that I will give all of my time, energy and talent to you. I know that you will be bringing your enthusiasm and positive energy with you once we get started.

I, of course, will also be bringing enthusiasm and energy to the program. I have been the director of bands at Johnstown High School for the past 16 years, and enjoyed starting that program and developing it to state championship level. I have 4 additional years of experience, including working with the band programs at Oswego, Auburn, and Orchard Park. I have served on the field band conference executive board for 13 years and have been the color guard circuit president for the past 12 years. I am an experienced jazz band director, and frequently perform as a saxophonist and vocalist in the area. I attended Ithaca College both for my Bachelor's degree and my Masters degree. This summer I was selected as a participant in a Conducting Symposium at the Juilliard School in New York City. All of these experiences have helped prepare me for the position of Mohonasen High School Band Director, and I am honored and ready to rise to the many challenges this position presents.

The program for the fall is music of Aaron Copland, *Appalachian Spring*. I am certain you will enjoy performing it. I encourage you to search it on YouTube, and listen for the original orchestral version. This may be the vehicle which can help us bring the Governor's Cup home to Mohonasen!

Please find below the marching band rehearsal schedule for the summer.

After reviewing the schedule, please email me at [dajones@mohonasen.org](mailto:dajones@mohonasen.org) with any questions, concerns and all of your anticipated conflicts.

Sincerely,

Mr. Jones  
Mohonasen High School Band Director

## **SUMMER SCHEDULE**

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### *August*

- 4      Wednesday    6:00 – 7:00 P.M.    Meet and greet the marching band staff.  
High School Auditorium
- 9      Monday            6:00-8:30 P.M.        First rehearsal – full band and color guard.
- 11     Wednesday    6:00-8:30 P.M.        Rehearsal – full band and color guard.

*Remember, if you cannot attend some rehearsals, we still want you and need you. Email me with your conflicts and when you will be able to join us; we will definitely save your spot.*

### **Band Camp**

- 16-19 Monday (freshmen parent meeting), Tuesday (shoe fitting day), Wednesday, Thursday  
9:00 – 12:00; 1:00 – 4:30; 6:00- 8:30 every day
- 20      Friday  
9:00 – 12:00; 1:00 – 4:30
- 23-25 Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday (uniform fitting week)  
9:00 – 12:00; 1:00 – 4:30; 6:00- 8:30
- 26      Thursday  
9:00 – 12:00; 1:30-6:30; 6:30 – first performance for parents, family and friends.  
Band parent meeting at 5:30 P.M. and Barbeque.

*The schedule during the months of September and October will be primarily the same as in previous seasons, Monday and Wednesday evenings. I will type up a full schedule as soon as I can. I will also let you know of our competition schedule and parade schedule. If you still have your uniform from last year please bring it back, dry-cleaned the first day of band.*