



GOALS FOR MARCH

With the start of March we are leading into spring (Let's hope!) and it is time to start spring cleaning. Work on your technique this month! It is time get your fingers in gear and to focus on increasing your dexterity.

To do this start with something simple, for example a scale and **USE A METRONOME**, slowly increase the tempo. As Mr. Hofmann says, "Play the exercise three times in a row without messing up before you increase the speed!"

See how fast you can go. 100 BPMs? 120 BPMs? 200 BPMs? Get those fingers flying!

Pro tip: keep your fingers hovering/resting on keys/valves for added speed.

Remember even 15 minutes a day is better than nothing

CURRENT NEWS

March ushers in our celebrations of music in our schools! Keep in mind that there are two MIOSM concerts this month. These concerts highlight our students from around the district and show our community the importance of music. Please consider attending these concerts. The MIOSM Band concert is Tuesday, March 13th and the MIOSM Chorus concert is Thursday, March 15th. Admission is \$6 for adults and \$5 for students/seniors with \$1 per ticket going to the Jeff Haraschak Memorial Scholarship Fund.

AS A REMINDER

There is a **mandatory trip meeting**/band parent meeting March 1st at 6:30.

Leadership applications are available in the Band Room

Directors Notes

-With the start of March, the year is speeding along. Remember to keep yourself healthy with sleep, water, and some practice. Did you know music helps to build a better brain?

-Our Winter Guard is in full force. They are scheduled for a competition performance and a performance at our spring concert. Thank you to Ms. Piavis and Mrs. Fadden for directing the group.

-**Calling all Returning Members!** We need your help! Do you have any suggestions for recruitment, changes, concerns, or new ideas? See any staff member, write down your ideas, and share the music!



WHATS HAPPENING THIS MONTH

LINKS

[Marching Cougar Handbook](#)

[Absent Request Form](#)

[Charms Access](#)

[Remind Text Message Access Code](#)

Criminal Record Check is available online:

<http://epatch.state.pa.us>

Child Abuse History

Clearance is available online:

<http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/findaform/childabusehistoryclearanceforms/>

Federal Background Check is available online:

<https://www.identogo.com/locations/pennsylvania>

IMPORTANT DATES

Mar. 1 – Mandatory Spring Trip Meeting (6:30 pm)

Mar. 1 Band Booster Meeting (After Mandatory Trip Meeting)

Mar. 1-2 – PMEA Region Chorus

Mar. 6 – Luzerne County Band (7:30 am Depart)

Mar. 9 – HEMS Read Across America Celebration (8:15-11 am)

Mar. 13 – MIOSM Band Concert (6:30 am Report)

Mar. 14- Band Recruitment (TBA)

Mar. 15 – MIOSM Chorus Concert

Mar. 16 – Trip Payment Due

Mar. 16 – PMEA District 9 Jazz Festival Day 1 (7:30 Depart)

Mar. 17 – PMEA District 9 Jazz Day 2 / Jazz Fest (7:00 am Depart)

Mar. 21-23 – PMEA Region Orchestra

Mar. 24 – MIOSM at Laurel Mall, HS Jazz Report (TBA)

Other Dates:

Mar. 1 – HAHS Jazz Band (3-4:30pm)

Mar. 6 – Winter Guard (6-8pm)

Mar. 8 – HAHS Jazz Band (3-4:30pm)

Mar. 8 – Leadership Meeting (4-5pm)

Mar. 8 – Winter Guard (6-8pm)

Mar. 14 – Leadership Meeting (3-4pm)

Mar. 15 – Winter Guard (6-8pm)

Mar. 22 – Leadership Meeting (5-6pm)

Mar. 22 – Winter Guard (6-8pm)

Mar. 27 – Winter Guard (6-8pm)

Mar. 30 – April 2 – Spring Break

**Report Times listed above are subject to change. Please keep an eye on the remind messages for accurate times.

VOLUNTEER

Volunteering is an important part of our program. Even though the season is over it does not mean there are not opportunities for you to help. Please visit our website and sign-up to help the band out*.

How to Get to the Volunteer Page: Click [this Link](#) and then click the Volunteer Tab and roll over Volunteer Needs. Also the FBI Clearance has changed! If you have a current FBI clearance there is nothing to worry about, but it/when it expires the process is a little different. Please see the link on the left labeled "Federal Background Check" for more information

*Please keep in mind that some of the volunteer opportunities require clearances.

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