



## 2017 Orientation Packet



What is



**One hundred brothers. One hundred sisters. One hundred high school tour guides. One hundred life-long friends. One hundred-percent dedication.**

HMK is made of one hundred members who not only play music, spin flags, and march drill, but also support one another on and off the field.

In HMK, we are not individuals, but a giant machine constructed from many parts that work together seamlessly.

**When you join the Hempfield Marching Knights you become a part of something more than yourself - learn music, make friends, and create memories that will last a lifetime!**

- Marielle Donohue, Class of 2013

**Description:** The Hempfield Marching Knights is one of the largest and most successful student organizations at Hempfield High School. The Marching Knights are committed to excellence and have earned a reputation as one of the premier performance ensembles in the region!

**Membership:** All students in grades 9-12 are eligible for membership in the HMK. *Students that do not play a band instrument but are interested in HMK should contact Mr. Gumble ASAP!*

**With the HMK, there is no  
"second string"...EVERYONE'S a starter!**

**If you are willing to  
WORK HARD and STRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE  
then there is a place for you in the  
HMK!**



**Greetings!**

**My name is Madison Faizon and I am one of the HMK Drum Majors in 2017!** I played mellophone in the Marching Knights for two years and had an amazing experience leading the band last season! I can say without a doubt that **becoming a Marching Knight was one of the best decisions I have EVER made!**

**Joining HMK is one of the best decisions you can make as you head into high school.** In the band, we're a family. Unlike other activities at Hempfield, you bond with underclassmen and upperclassmen alike - there is no varsity or junior varsity. You'll make friends that will last you a lifetime (while performing for thousands of people)!

**HMK makes you awesome!** You'll learn a lot about music, a lot about determination, and you'll gain priceless leadership experience, all while marching in some pretty famous stadiums. Doing HMK all these years has earned me a family I'll never forget and memories that'll stick with me forever!

**We look forward to seeing you at Member Knight on May 15th!**

## 2016 Season Review

2016 was another wildly successful year for HMK! The entire group worked incredibly hard from June through November, achieved at an absurdly high level, and had a **GREAT** time doing it - it doesn't get much better!

Competitively, HMK continued their tradition of excellence with consistent first place finishes at local events with special awards for music, marching, visual, percussion, and color guard! The band capped off the season with their 7th-straight Top 5 finish at Cavalcade of Bands Championships!!!!

**There are not many opportunities to be THE BEST at something... take advantage by joining HMK this season!**



**2017 Show Announcement @  
MEMBER KNIGHT!  
Monday, May 15th (6-8 PM)!**



## 2017 Preview

We couldn't be more excited about the 2017 season! With an awesome nucleus of returning members excited to work hard and strive for excellence, an incredible creative team working on our program, and the best teachers anywhere working with our students, how could you not be excited? :)

While Fridays are for football, Saturdays are show days! **We kick off our competitive season on September 16th with the 25th Annual OPENING KNIGHT at Hempfield High School!** With one of the largest and most competitive shows on the calendar, it's important that we put our best foot forward in every respect!

In October, HMK will hit the road to the for the Bands of America Regional Championship at the University of Delaware! Some of the best bands in the country will be there...including the Marching Knights! The competitive season ends in early November with CBA Championships, at J. Birney Crum Stadium in Allentown, PA!

**For detailed schedules as they become available, please visit [bands.hempfieldsd.org](http://bands.hempfieldsd.org) and follow us on Twitter @hempfieldbands**

# 2017 Schedule



## Orientation Schedule:

**MEMBER KNIGHT! (ALL MEMBERS): 05.15 (6-8 PM)**  
**ORIENTATION (New Members and Leaders Only! - 6 - 9 PM)**  
05.18, 05.23, 05.24, 05.30

## Summer Rehearsals

**Summer Ensemble (All Members) > 6 - 9 PM**  
06.14, 06.28, 07.12, 07.26

\*Wind Sectionals may be held on other dates/locations as agreed upon by each Section

**Percussion Sectionals > 6 - 9 PM**  
06.12, 06.19, 06.26, 07.03, 07.10, 07.17, 07.24, 07.31

**Guard Sectionals > 6 - 9 PM**  
05.31, 06.13, 06.20, 06.21, 06.27, 07.11, 07.18, 07.19, 07.25, 08.01, 08.02

**Vacations are EXCUSED prior to August...send postcards!**

**Pre Camp (All Members) > 6 - 9 PM**  
08.08, 08.09, 08.10

**Training Camp (All Members)**  
08.14, 08.15, 08.16, 08.17, 08.18 (9 AM - 5 PM)  
08.21, 08.22 (4 - 9 PM)

*Attendance at Training Camp is critical to the success of the group. Contact Mr. Gumble with conflicts/questions ASAP!*

*\* Specific conflict or question? Contact Mr. Gumble ASAP! appear to be "deal breakers" at first can have a workable solution!*



## Fall Schedule:

### Sectionals >

Percussion (Mondays) > 6 - 9 PM  
Winds (Tuesdays) > 3:15-5:30 PM  
Guard (Tuesdays) > 6 - 9 PM

### Ensemble Rehearsals >

Wed. 3:15 - 5:30 PM (until October 11th)  
Thurs. 6 - 9 PM

### Performances >

- Hempfield Football Games
- September 1st > vs. Dallastown
  - September 8th > @ Exeter
  - September 15th > @ Central York
  - September 22nd > vs. Manheim TWP
  - September 29th > @ Penn Manor
  - October 6th > @ Warwick
  - October 13th > vs. McCaskey (Fall Band Knight!)
  - October 20th > @ Conestoga Valley
  - October 27th > vs. Wilson (Homecoming)
  - November 3rd > vs. Lebanon

### Rehearsals/Competitions

- (Report @ 9 AM unless otherwise noted)
- September 9th > FINISH THE SHOW DAY! (9 AM - 5 PM)
  - September 16th > OPENING KNIGHT!!!!
  - September 23rd > CBA @ Conestoga Valley HS
  - September 30th > Mini-Camp (1 PM - 5 PM)
  - October 7th > BOA Regional @ University of Delaware
  - October 14th > SHOW TBD
  - October 21st > CBA @ Wilson HS
  - November 4th > SHOW TBD
  - November 12th > CBA Championships @ J. Birney Crum!



## Percussion and Color Guard

In addition to performing with our Concert Ensembles, Hempfield Percussionists are eligible for membership in the Hempfield Marching Knights as well as the Hempfield Indoor Percussion Ensemble. Percussionists at Hempfield form strong bonds that resemble a close-knit family!

**Battery Percussion** includes marching snare drums, bass drums, tenors, and cymbals.



### HEMPFIELD PERCUSSION

#### Pit Percussion

includes keyboard percussion (marimbas, vibraphones, xylophones, chimes, bells, timpani, auxiliary instruments).

**Any student interested in percussion WILL be given a spot within the ensemble!** Placement within the percussion section is based on what is most appropriate for the ability/experience level of the student as well as the needs of the ensemble.



**Description:** The Black Knight Color Guard is a performance ensemble that combines choreographed dance, theater, and equipment work into a piece athletic artistry. Members are highly motivated and love to perform!

**Outdoor:** During the Fall months, the Color Guard performs with the Hempfield Marching Knights and performs at all football games, competitions, and parades. In recent years, the BKCG has earned a reputation as one of the best Color Guards in the state!

**Indoor:** During the Winter and Spring months, the Color Guard moves from the football field to the basketball court for Indoor Guard. The Indoor Guard competes at local and regional contests across PA and NJ.

**Membership:** All students in grades 9-12 are eligible to audition for the Black Knight Color Guard. Students that are interested in learning to dance, make new friends, learn new skills, and perform will make GREAT Color Guard members!  
Auditions will take place in May (HMK) and December (Indoor Guard).





# HMK FAQ

**Q: Does high school band conflict with academics?**

A: No - research shows that it ENHANCES academics! Students participating in band score higher on their SATs (Verbal: 20 points. Math: 25 points). **MORE THAN 75% of Hempfield Band Students take Honors and AP Courses. 60-75% of band seniors graduate with honors.** Band students often occupy the top seats with regards to class rank. **In addition, 2010 HMK Woodwind Captain (and Concert Band Flutist AND Jazz Band Pianist) Amaya Madden was announced as a National Merit Scholar Finalist, while 2013 HMK Band President Robert Shreiner was the Valedictorian of HHS!**

**Q: To be in Concert Band, do I HAVE to be in the Marching Band?**

A: While it's highly recommended that you do both, Concert Band and Marching Band are mutually exclusive - you can be in Concert Band and NOT in Marching Band. That being said, the overwhelming majority of students do BOTH in high school. :)  
It's important to know that you MUST be in either Concert or Marching Band to participate in Jazz Ensemble. Or, you could just do all three!

**Q: I feel like I can barely play my instrument while sitting down. Now you want me to memorize the music and run around on a football field!?!? Are you crazy?!?!?**

A: Great question! My response to this is always "you've gotta try it."  
**Our success rate with students who try is holding steady at 100%.** By being brave and believing in yourself, you will achieve whatever it is that you set out to do. You'll be amazed at what kind of person is inside of you!

**Q: I am planning on taking honors/AP classes and I'm afraid of the workload along with the marching band...what should I do?**

A: Many of the students in the band program are enrolled in honors/advanced placement courses and have been since they began their academic careers. While moving on to high school can be a frightening experience due to increased academic pressures, the overwhelming majority of band students develop advanced organizational skills, a strong work ethic, and a drastic increase in academic discipline due to their experiences with our program.

Our band members are high achieving students who form a strong support structure both academically and emotionally.  
**Think about it...what other group can you join where you've immediately made 120 other friends who have all "been there before" and are willing to share their experiences and lend a helping hand?**

**Q: I am interested in taking part in other activities where there may be conflicts; can I still be in the band?**

A: For sure! **Band students also play football, softball, basketball, baseball, track, swimming, cross country, soccer, tennis, and volleyball!** All coaches and advisors work together in order to come up with a schedule compromise that most benefits the student. If you want to participate but don't know if it will work out...email me!

**Q: Can I be in high school band AND orchestra? Choir?**

A: **ABSOLUTELY!** Many of our best performers in Marching Band are string players who learn a secondary instrument for marching band because it is such an awesome experience! **It takes hard work to learn a second instrument, but If you are a string player or singer who is interested in joining the marching band, email me!**

**Q: How will band work in my regular school schedule?**

A: At HHS, you will have band every other day for an 80-minute block of time. Concert Band counts as a scheduled elective; most students take band and a language as their electives in 9th grade. **While schedule options are few for 9th grade musicians, the schedule opens up drastically as each student moves through their high school career (meaning that you'll have PLENTY of opportunities to take digital media and photography classes...don't worry!).** If you are being told that you CAN'T schedule band...email me!

**Q: Do I need to take private lessons to be a member of the high school band program?**

A: You do not have to take private lessons, however private study is strongly recommended! **Private instrumental lessons are one of the best investments that you can make in your future and are a great way to enrich your HS experience.** For a list of our approved private lesson instructors, please visit our website at [bands.hempfieldsd.org](http://bands.hempfieldsd.org) and search for "Private Lessons".

**Q: I have a REALLY great question but I can't seem to find it on this paper...what should I do?!?!?**

A: The best question of all! Mr. Gumble would absolutely love to talk to you and your family about the high school band experience.  
**Email Mr. Gumble at [adam\\_gumble@hempfieldsd.org](mailto:adam_gumble@hempfieldsd.org)**

# Sound GREAT? Join the Team!



1. Visit [bands.hempfieldsd.org](http://bands.hempfieldsd.org) and FILL OUT THE MEMBER INTEREST FORM!
2. Follow @hempfieldbands on Twitter and LIKE US on Facebook!
3. Look for email/social media/website updates!
4. Attend MEMBER KNIGHT on Monday, May 15th!
5. BE GREAT!



web > [bands.hempfieldsd.org](http://bands.hempfieldsd.org)

facebook > [facebook.com/HMK](https://www.facebook.com/HMK)

charms > charmsoffice.com (Group Name: HempfieldBand, Password: *your Student ID #*)

twitter > @hempfieldbands

email > [adam\\_gumble@hempfieldsd.org](mailto:adam_gumble@hempfieldsd.org)