



2016 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 Celeste Watson-Martin and I was head drum major of HMK in 2015! I played trumpet in the Marching Knights for three 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!

I look forward to seeing your faces at Hype Day! Have a killer season next year!

- Celeste

2015 Season Review

2015 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 a Silver Medal at USBands PA State Championships, a Top 10 finish at USBands National Championships, and their 7th-straight Top 5 finish at Cavalcade of Bands Championships!!!!



2016 Show Announcement @
HYPE DAY!
Saturday, May 21st!



2016 Preview

We couldn't be more excited about the 2016 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 17 - 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 a Bands of America Regional Championship! Some of the best bands in the country will be there...including the Marching Knights! HMK will once again attend USBands PA State Championships and look to reclaim the title of Best in the State!

The competitive season ends in early November with Championships! **For detailed schedules as they become available, please visit bands.hempfieldsd.org and follow us on Twitter @hempfieldbands**

2016 Schedule



Orientation Schedule:

HYPE DAY! (ALL MEMBERS): 05.21 (1-5 PM)

ORIENTATION (New Members and Leaders Only! - 6 - 9 PM)
05.24, 05.31

Summer Schedule:

Summer Ensemble (All Members) > 6 - 9 PM

06.08, 06.15, 06.22, 06.29, 07.06, 07.13, 07.20, 07.27

Vacations are EXCUSED...send postcards!

Guard/Percussion Sectionals > 6 - 9 PM

06.07, 06.14, 06.22, 06.28, 07.05, 07.12, 07.19, 07.26

Color Guard and Percussion Only...Vacations EXCUSED!

Training Camp (All Members) > 9 AM - 5 PM

08.01, 08.02, 08.03, 08.04

08.08, 08.09, 08.10, 08.11

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

Post Camp (All Members) > 6 PM - 9 PM

08.16, 08.17, 08.18, 08.23, 08.24

PREVIEW KNIGHT 08.25 @ 7 PM!



Fall Schedule (Tentative):

Sectional Tuesdays >

Winds 3:15-5:30, Guard and Perc 6-9

Ensemble Rehearsals >

Wed. 3:15 - 5:30 PM, Thurs. 6:00 - 9:00 PM

Performances+ >

Fridays > Hempfield Football Games (TBA)

Saturdays > Rehearsals/Contests

(Report @ 9 AM unless otherwise noted)

- September 3rd > OFF (Labor Day Weekend)
- September 10th > Mini-Camp (9 AM - 5 PM)
- September 17th > Opening Knight @ Hempfield HS
- September 24th > Contest TBA
- October 1st > Mini-Camp (9 AM - 5 PM)
- October 8th > OFF (Homecoming)
- October 15th > BOA Regional @ University of Delaware
- October 22nd > Contest TBA
- October 29th > Contest TBA
- November 5th > Contest TBA
- November 12/13th > Contest TBA (Tentative)

+ A detailed calendar will be distributed prior to the summer months.



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.

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



HEMPFIELD PERCUSSION



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.

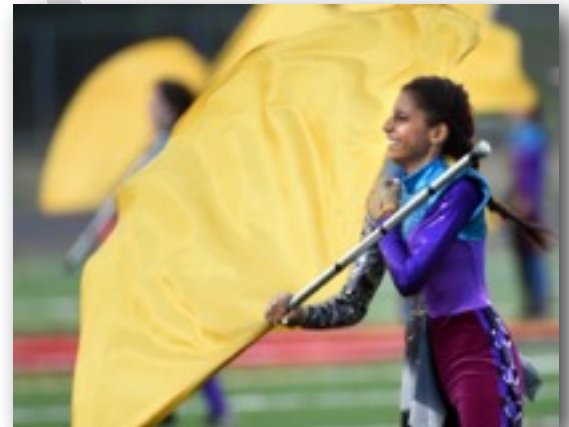
Description: The Black Knight Color Guard is a performance ensemble that combines choreographed dance, theater, and equipment work into a piece athletic artistry. Members are highly motivated and love to perform!

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 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

Sound GREAT? Join the Team!



1. Visit bands.hempfieldsd.org > HMK > Become a Member!
2. FILL OUT THE REGISTRATION FORM COMPLETELY!
3. Follow @hempfieldbands on Twitter and Join HMK on Facebook!
4. Look for email/social media/website updates
5. Attend HYPE DAY on Saturday, May 21st!
6. BE GREAT!



web > bands.hempfieldsd.org

facebook > facebook.com/HMK (members/parents)

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

twitter > @hempfieldbands

email > adam_gumble@hempfieldsd.org