

THE TOP FIVE EXCUSES FOR NOT PARTICIPATING IN HIGH SCHOOL MUSIC ENSEMBLES AND THE ANSWERS TO CHANGE YOUR MIND!

1. I have played my instrument for four years. I'm tired of playing my instrument and doing the same concerts.

Maybe what you mean to say is that you are looking for different performance opportunities to participate in. Here are some of the functions which you will perform at during your first year at RMHS:

- Perform with the Marching Mustangs for hundreds of enthusiastic fans at our home football games and at some marching competitions!
- Perform with 30-40 high school bands and a large college in front of 70,000 fans!
- Perform at the 214 Band Festivals with a nationally recognized guest conductor!
- Help work at the nation's largest high school jazz festival - *Jazz In The Meadows!*
- Performance opportunities exist in various ensembles such as Madrigal Brass, Show Choir Combo, Jazz Combo, Jazz Bands, Pep Band, Marching Band, Concert or Symphonic Band, Winter Drum Line, Percussion Ensembles, and Orchestra.
- Performance opportunities exist by trying school instruments such as piccolo, bass or alto clarinet, tenor or baritone sax, English Horn, mellophone, bassoon, trombone, baritone, sousaphone, and tuba.

2. (A) I don't like Marching Band and (B) I certainly don't want to rehearse until 9:00 every night during the Marching Band season.

(A) How do you know until you have tried it? Many of our students came into Meadows with that attitude and have found Marching Band to be a fun and entertaining activity to participate in. Matter of fact, many of our graduating students go on to perform with some of the best college bands in the country such as U of I, Purdue, Whitewater, ISU, Minnesota, Iowa, and Indiana.

(B) Neither do I - so we won't!!!! The Marching Mustang schedule is unlike some of the other marching band schedules which you have heard about. Some other schools rehearse numerous week nights outside regular class time. The MM (Marching Mustang) rehearsal schedule involves only one night a week up until the end of October.

3. I won't have time to study and participate in extracurricular activities such as athletics, clubs and work.

The band performance schedule is basically equal to that of an athletic team's schedule. The only difference is that the athletic team maintains an intensive two-three month schedule and then stops. The band schedule spreads itself out over the entire year. If you asked the band members who were members of athletic teams, clubs, national honor society, church youth groups and other activities to raise their hands, almost every hand would be raised. Sometimes conflicts do occur between an athletic event and a band event. At that point, the coach and I work out the problem for the student.

4. At some schools, Music Ensembles are considered unpopular in high school.

Our music ensembles maintain a state and, in some cases, a national reputation. Many of our students are the best academically and athletically. The band is consistently represented in the Homecoming Court, Leadership Organizations, Drama, Athletics, and numerous other activities. These students are considered to be the leaders in the school which make music a cool activity to be involved in.

5. Many people who join band do it because they are not involved in anything else. I don't want to be like that.

Granted, some students choose to focus on band activities alone, but most do not. Following is a partial list of numerous activities which you can be involved in including some of the students in that activity. As you can see it is possible to be involved and still participate in band!

Girls Cross Country: Claire Brady, Katie Odon, Anna Tam, Colleen Clark

Boys Cross Country: Joey Klein, Nate Harraman

Girls Tennis: Emily Ciesil, Caroline Zawada, Margaret Piergalski

Boys Tennis: David Priest, Steve Odon, Jason Park

Girls Volleyball: Mikayla Nagle

Boys Volleyball: Robert Wess, Andrew Bourke, JJ McCarthy

Girls Golf: Sharon Kirby

Girls Basketball: Emily McCarthy, Mikayla Nagle, Maddie Conlin, Colleen Clark
Boys Soccer: Charlie McCarthy, Steve Odon, Tim Layden, JJ McCarthy
Girls Soccer: Mikayla Nagle, Claire Brady, Maddie Conlin, Katie Odon, Brittany Meyer, Colleen Clark
Basketball Manager: Rebecca Lee
Boys Wrestling: Michael Meyer
Girls Bowling: Natalie Wren, Lauren Jacobs, Anna Tam, Amanda Micari, Lisa Delmedico
Girls Badminton: Natalie Wren, Emily Ciesil, Lauren Jacobs, Brittany Meyer, Caroline Zawada, Margaret Piergalski
Boys Swimming: James Waterloo
Girls Swimming: Maddie Conlin
Boys Water Polo: James Waterloo
Girls Water Polo: Anna Kinney
Cheerleading: Kim Kelly
Boys Track: Robert Wess, Joey Klein
Girl Track: Christine Rueger, Amber Gruber
Boys Baseball: Kevin Bourne, Garret Becker
Hockey: Andy Tatkowski, Doug Behles, Joe Hendrickson
Trainer: Rebecca Lee, Anna Kinney, Amber Gruber
Drama Club: Emily McCarthy, Christine Rueger, Grant Moody, TJ Mitchell, Andrew Bourke, Matt Graf
Choir: Samantha King, Colleen Clark, Megan Young, TJ Mitchell, Steve Odon, Matt Graf
Poms: Kristina Petrie, Nicole Eberhard
Orchestra Strings: Wendy Purse, Collin Doruf, John Becker
Orchesis: Nicole Eberhard, Megan Young, Alex Laya
Costume Crew: Samantha King
Tech Crew: Samantha King, Samantha Diedrich, Matt Graf
Musical Cast and Crew: Samantha King, TJ Mitchell, Steve Odon, Matt Graf
One Acts: TJ Mitchell, Grant Moody, Lauren Jacobs, Aileise Delaney, Matt Graf
Fall Play: TJ Mitchell
Color Guard: Lauren Jacobs, Hanna Geraghty
Speech Team: Katie Odon, Grant Moody, TJ Mitchell, Andrew Bourke
Art Club: Christine Rueger
Variety Show: Steve Odon, Megan Young, Nicole Eberhard, Charlie McCarthy, JJ McCarthy, Ruth Tam, Anna Tam, Sam King, Alex Laya,
Auto Club: Michael Meyer
Snowboard and Ski Club: Betsy Cataldo, Samantha Diedrich, Bobby Blaker, Robert Wess, Michael Anderson, Michael Meyer, Luke Burns, Andy Tatkowski, Jason Park
Student Council: Anna Kinney, Maddie Conlin, Laura Collins, Charlie McCarthy, JJ McCarthy
Class Council: Anna Kinney, Kim Rothacker, Maddie Conlin
Future Educators of America: Sharon Kirby, Rebecca Lee, Samantha Diedrich, Steve Odon
Youth Group: Sharon Kirby, Rebecca Lee
National Honors Society: Samantha King, Rebecca Lee, Anna Kinney, Betsy Cataldo, Lauren Jacobs, Katie Odon, Kim Kelly, Laura Collins, Charlie McCarthy, TJ Mitchell, Steve Odon, Tim Layden, James Waterloo, DaeHan Choi, Lisa Delmedico, Andy Tatkowski, Joey Klein, Jason Park, Ruth Tam, Luke Burns, Jenna Shumaker, Greg Wilk
Science Olympiad: Anna Kinney
T.E.A.M.: Rebecca Lee
A-OK: Rebecca Lee, Colleen Clark
Bible Club: Rebecca Lee
PADS: Rebecca Lee
TDP: Natalie Wren, JJ McCarthy, Jason Park
Student Principal Advisory Committee: Anna Kinney, Samantha Diedrich
Math Team: Lauren Jacobs, Brittany Meyer, Laura Collins, Philip Bertrand, Chris Grimm
Italian Club: Lauren Jacobs
Amnesty International: Anna Tam, Caroline Zawada
Robotics: David Priest, Brian Kuczynski, Joe Palmer, Andy Tatkowski, Jason Park
Chess Team: Brian Buczynski, Andy Tatkowski, Jason Park

and many more.....

(especially from the freshman as they sign up and tryout for additional activities)