

June 12, 2009

Dear Band Director:

We are pleased you will be joining us to participate in the **TWENTIFIFTH ANNUAL BAND DAY**, on September 26, at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. We continue to receive registrations daily, so we expect it to be every bit as successful as in the past. In fact, we enjoy having a large number of bands join us, so pass the word to your friends.

The following are some guidelines and general information.

Directions to Amherst, Parking, and Tentative Schedule (*see attached*).

Entrance Into The Stadium

In order to assist our operations staff admittance into the football stadium will require one of the following:

1. Students must be in uniform.
2. Each bus will receive 3 Band Day Passes per bus upon arrival Saturday morning to be distributed to staff, drivers, and/or chaperones by the band director. All directors will need a pass as well.
3. Tickets for parents, guests, and others for the football game can be purchased in advance through the UMass Athletic Ticket Office at (413) 545-0810. Or, the ticket office at the East Gate will be open for sales at 2:00pm on game day.

Visiting bands will be seated in sections 8 and 9 on the Home field side, and sections 18 and 19 on the Visitors' side. UMass Band Guides will be on hand to assist.

Please advise all parents and guests that access to rest rooms in the stadium will require either a Band Uniform, Band Day Pass, or Game Ticket.

Band Day 2009 Music

Enclosed are wind & percussion scores, and individual parts, for the 2009 Band Day program (see attached letter from our librarian for more details). This year we're playing musical selections from Elton John, America The Beautiful, and our university fight song, Fight Mass. Please make copies and distribute as needed. ***All students must have music with them at the Saturday afternoon rehearsal on September 26th. Flip folders if possible. Percussion as well.***

Due to logistics we recommend that all drum majors wear their drum major uniforms, but play a musical instrument in the mass band performance.

Color Guard and Twirlers

Color guard and twirler routines will be taught at Saturday's rehearsal. They will be designed for mass effects; very patterned and repetitive. Dancers are encouraged to participate; however, we

will be unable to provide an instructor to work with them on Saturday morning. We recommend they make up their own routine and join in on the fun!

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

1. Reporting time is **12:00 noon** at Gladchuck Field just adjacent to Warren McGuirk Alumni Stadium. Simply follow the guides upon your arrival to campus. *Since the game starts at 6:00PM it is imperative that we begin rehearsal at 12:45PM.* We appreciate your efforts to be prompt.
2. We suggest each student bring their own bag lunch/dinner. Sodas will be available at the stadium concession stands if necessary.
3. Due to the number of students participating, we ask that each band use their buses to change into uniform for the performance.
4. Remember, the University of Massachusetts Minuteman Band will present a special performance for you and your students immediately following the conclusion of the football game. All activities should be concluded by 10:00PM.
5. In the event of rain we will perform as scheduled during half-time. We suggest you consider having the students bring a dry change of clothes for the ride home. If you feel conditions are too severe for your band to perform, we completely support your decision to forego the half-time festivities.

In closing, we hope this information is helpful in your preparations and answers a few questions you may have had. Please feel free to contact us regarding further updates of your band size. Until then, take care and if you have any questions please call either myself at (413) 545-6060 or the Marching Band Office at (413) 545-3410.

Sincerely,

Thomas P. Hannum, Associate Director
Minuteman Band

UMASS BAND DAY 2009

Directions – Parking – Tentative Schedule

DIRECTIONS FROM ROUTE 91

1. Take Exit 19, Rte. 9 East to Amherst. Go past the Hampshire Mall and MacDonald's.
2. Take a left onto Rte. 116 North. Go to the UMass/Amherst exit.
3. Take the UMass/Amherst exit onto Massachusetts Ave.
4. Go to the first traffic light and turn right onto University Drive.
5. Proceed approximately .5 mile to the Dallas Mall entrance on the right. A University Band Guide will be there to greet you.
6. **Only** buses and equipment trucks should continue to the unloading zone adjacent to Gladchuck Field. All other vehicles should turn right and park in Lot E (\$5 charge) or Lot 33.

BUS & TRUCK PARKING

After unloading the University Band Guide will assist you with parking in Lot 33. Notify drivers in advance that the buses and equipment trucks will remain here for the rest of the day.

Please be cooperative with parking officials. Only buses and equipment trucks will be permitted to park in Lot 33. All other vehicles should park in designated parking lots near the stadium. We ask you notify all parents and guests in advance.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

12:00 Noon Visiting bands arrive at Gladchuck Field, unload, and set up immediately for rehearsal.

12:45-3:45PM	Introductions, sectional rehearsals, mass band rehearsal, run through.
3:45-5:00PM	Eat dinner, change into uniforms on buses, and line up to enter stadium for Pre-game.
5:00PM	All visiting band proceed to McGuirk Alumni Stadium.
5:30PM	All visiting bands seated in stadium for pregame.
6:00PM	Football game starts.
Second Quarter	Exit stands and begin to set up for Half-time.
Half-time	Mass Band performance, then return to seats for second half.
Postgame	Feature performance by Minuteman Marching Band. All visiting bands sit on home field side.
10:00PM	Visiting bands depart for home or hotel.