

May 6, 2023

Dear Colleagues:

Greetings from UMass! I hope everyone had a good winter and are now enjoying spring. We have a couple more weeks of classes here. Final concerts are coming up, and the planning for the fall Minuteman Marching Band is well underway. And part of that, of course, is **BAND DAY!**

The 2023 UMass Band Day is scheduled for **Saturday, Oct. 7th**, and will be held at McGuirk Alumni Stadium, on the UMass Amherst campus. Our UMass football team will be playing the University of Toledo Rockets, on what should be a stunning autumn day. For those not familiar with the UMass campus, the fall foliage is always awesome right around the Stadium. We will not know kick-off times till late this summer, but please plan on an early morning. As you can appreciate, it takes a few hours to coordinate getting a massed throng of band members on and off the field, not to mention playing the music together! Once kick-off time is determined, an updated schedule will be posted on the band day website.

Typically, we rehearse in McGuirk Stadium for approximately 90 minutes and then break into sectionals, led by UMass music education students, for another hour. Once those activities are done, band students return to their buses, eat lunch, change into their band uniforms, and then return to the stadium to watch the football game. We like to have everyone in the stands in time to watch the UMass Band's pregame show. All the participating bands sit together in the stands, so there is ample opportunity for your students to meet their counterparts from other schools. We put a priority on the socialization aspect of Band Day; during the halftime show, everyone is grouped by section. All the trumpets are together, the trombones are together, the twirlers together, etc., rather than being grouped by school. There's just no way your students won't meet someone new! After halftime, bands go back to their buses, get out of their uniforms, and return for the end of the game. The day ends with them getting to watch the post-game field show performance of the Minuteman Marching Band. It's a day I guarantee your students will be talking about for a while!

I would be remiss if I did not mention that, while the majority of Band Day participants are high school bands, that is not exclusive. Junior High School/Middle School bands are equally welcome and have participated in the past. Marching uniforms are also not required; we've had groups attired in band polos and jackets, as well as formal uniforms. All sections are welcome; front ensemble percussion, bari sax, dance team, we've even had guitars and violins. If they are in your band, we want them at Band Day! And if your entire band cannot make it....**NO PROBLEM!** We have frequently had partial band/sections. All are welcome!

To participate this Fall, please fill out the enclosed form and return with a check for **\$150**. Checks can be made out to **"Minuteman Marching Band."** The registration form will be on our Band Day website: www.umass.edu/band/bandday. You will want to check that page frequently, as it will contain all the important information for the day, such as campus maps, the schedule and the performance music. That will include If you have any questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to contact our Band Day coordinator Mia Lipman-Tessicini at ummbbandday@gmail.com.

So you may be asking yourself, what is theme for Band Day. We always strive for something your students and our audience will enjoy. And we think we have that figured out perfectly for this year. In 2023, we are celebrating 150 years of the Minuteman Marching Band. You and your students will see our field show that commemorates our history. But that's not the anniversary Band Day will be marking. You see, 2023 is also the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Walt Disney Animation Studio. So we'll have a halftime performance of favorite Disney tunes from over those 100 years. Who doesn't like that?!

Thanks so much for your time; we hope to see you and your students in Amherst this October 7th, for UMass football versus Toledo, and for the 39th edition of UMass Band Day! And please, pass this information along to others. We want UMass Band Day to be as big as possible!

All the best, and, as always,

GO UMASS!



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