

## **A Band Parent's Guide to Band Competitions**

Get ready to see extremely talented kids do amazing things!

The MZB's first competition is set for Saturday, September 26 in Lancaster, Pa. If you have never been to a marching band competition before, you are in for a thrill. If you are a veteran fan, then you are thinking, "Finally, the long wait is over!!" Veteran or novice, here are some dos and don'ts to help you enjoy the competition, show your support for the MZB, and support music education.

**DO visit the Youth Education in the Arts website ([www.yea.org](http://www.yea.org)).** There you will find a button for the USSBA which is the association that sponsors the local shows that the MZB will be competing in. Click your way through USSBA to the Fall Schedule and you will find all of the shows for the entire season. Click on USSBA Central Pennsylvania Regional Show (or any other show) and you will find the schedule for the show and directions. By Monday afternoon or Tuesday after the show the schedule will be updated with the complete scores. This website is a wealth of information – visit it early and often.

**DO wear maroon and gold to show your support for the MZB.** This also helps MZB fans find other MZB fans. While we don't have assigned seats, we usually try to sit in the same general area because grouped cheering works better than scattered cheering (see below). Sometimes early arrivers will save a bunch of seats so they can enjoy the show with other MZB fans. It's usually pretty informal so just look for friends. If you have a preference for sitting higher or lower than the group, near the exit, or whatever, then by all means do it.

**DO cheer loudly for the MZB.** Supportive and well-timed cheering helps raise the band's energy level and results in a better performance. Noise makers are okay, too, as are signs, pom-poms, etc. A few fans typically supply extra signs and noise makers and this is something that kind of evolves in an informal way as the show evolves through the seaason. Don't be afraid to get a little nutty, but also remember not to distract from the show or others' enjoyment of it. **And DO NOT forget to applaud and show respect for all of the other bands.**

**DO congratulate guard and band members you may see on their performance.** Get to know these kids, get to know their names, and let them know that you appreciate their hard work and talent. That kind of positive, personal feedback builds pride and will make them stretch themselves to even higher levels of performance. **And DO NOT forget to congratulate members of other bands on their efforts.** Congratulations from an adult from another school will absolutely make their day. Remember, you get back what you give.

Remember, its all about the kids. It's about helping them to develop the self confidence, as individuals and as a group, that they can achieve things they never thought possible. **Let's fill the stands at Lancaster. Go MZB!!!**