

MPS Welcome Letter

Thank you for registering for MPS! We look forward to seeing you this summer. This letter contains everything you need to know about registering for and attending MPS. Please read carefully.

Registration & First Session

Details for MPS registration & check-in:

- Saturday, July 29th — 3:00 to 5:00pm — Southwest Residential Area
- [Exactly which dorm is TBD. See **Housing & Dormitory** below for details.]

Forms, Paperwork & Payment

Please mail both the UHS Medical Form and Waiver & Release Form forms to our business office in advance. It will be one less thing to worry about on registration day.

Otherwise, be sure to bring both completed forms, as well as your balance due for the Seminar (if applicable), on registration day.

PLEASE NOTE: We are unable to accept credit cards as a form of payment. Tuition balances and books may be paid for with cash, check, or money order.

Dinner

After settling into your assigned dorm room and storing your instrument (and case, if applicable) in the designated location, you will go to the Dining Commons for dinner.

This meal will NOT be done as a group, so you must plan your time accordingly.

Parents and other guests are allowed to accompany students to the Dining Commons, however all parents and other guests will have to pay for their own meals.

First Playing Session

The first session will be held Saturday evening at 6:00 PM at the GNP Minuteman Marching Band Building/Grinnell Arena. All MPS students will meet outside of our dormitory at 5:40 PM and we will walk over to the GNP Building as a group.

You will need to bring your books, instrument, and a pencil or pen with you to the First Session. Mallet players and any student borrowing a drum and harness will receive their instruments during the First Session.

Housing & Dormitory

Due to ongoing residence hall renovations during the summer months at UMass-Amherst, the university Housing Services department does not assign us a dormitory until early July.

Once we receive notification of our dormitory you will be sent **TWO** Dormitory Confirmation Letters (one by email and one via USPS mail) regarding the name of the dormitory and helpful tips for registration.

The dormitories are NOT air-conditioned. We strongly recommend that you consider bringing a portable fan.

Approximately 15 adult staff members that will be staying in the dorm with the students, providing 24-hour supervision. Dorm buildings are locked 24/7.

Rooming Assignments

If you do not request a specific roommate, you will be roomed with another student at random to enhance your experience of meeting and working with new people.

If you wish to request a specific roommate, please tell us by one of these methods:

1. Write your desired roommate's name on your Registration Form
—or—
2. Email Sally Johnson—*no later than JULY 26*—at office@percussion.org.

ROOM ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT BE CHANGED DURING REGISTRATION. PLEASE DO NOT ASK.

Getting to Campus & Parking

For GPS purposes, the best address to use to get to the Southwest Residential area of the UMass-Amherst campus is: **111 Southwest Circle, Amherst, MA 01003.**

Parking tips will be included in the Dormitory Confirmation letter and email you will receive in early July.

If you will be driving yourself to and from campus, you must use our assigned parking lot. You will get information on where to park your vehicle from a staff member during Registration.

Students will park their cars after Registration and turn in their keys to the appropriate staff member for the duration of the Seminar.

If you park in any area not specifically designated for MPS, you may be subject to having your vehicle ticketed and towed at your own expense.

MPS Schedule & Meals

The basic schedule of the camp is three sessions: morning, afternoon and evening.

Marching Percussion (or battery/drumline) and Mallet Percussion (or pit/front ensemble) students will have separate morning and afternoon sessions. These sections will combine during the end of the evening session.

Sessions

Morning sessions includes a physical warm up/stretching, marching basics (battery only), percussion warm up (exercises) and large ensemble. Students will then break for lunch.

Afternoon sessions will consist of breaking into smaller, more individual attention groups, music reading fundamentals, and Leadership Sessions (for those who enroll in Section Leader Track).

Evening sessions will start with continued small group work (battery) followed by music review with full ensemble (battery and mallets combined).

Meals

All meals will be eaten in the Dining Commons. The first meal will be dinner on Saturday, July 29th, served from 4:30 to 5:30 PM. The final meal will be lunch on Wednesday, August 2nd.

Please visit UMassDining.com/Nutrition for more information regarding food allergies and special dietary needs.

Equipment

- All Seminar students will receive a pair of sticks during registration.
- Mallet players will use university-owned instruments.

Marching Percussion students should make every possible effort to bring their own instruments and harnesses.

If this is logistically impossible, you may request to borrow a snare, set of quads, or a bass drum and harness by emailing to Sally Johnson at office@percussion.org.

PLEASE NOTE: IF YOU WILL BE BORROWING OUR MARCHING EQUIPMENT, THE DRUMS WILL BE OF ***COLLEGE/DRUM CORPS*** WEIGHT!

Medical Emergencies

If you feel ill at any time, please contact a MPS staff member. All medical emergencies that arise will be handled through the University Health Services (UHS).

In extreme circumstances, students will be transported to Cooley Dickinson Hospital in Northampton, approximately 20 minutes from UMass.

Any ambulance transportation will be billed to the parent/guardian's insurance policy.

Closing Ceremony & Check-Out

Our closing ceremony, in conjunction with the George N. Parks Drum Major Academy (DMA), will be on Wednesday, August 2nd in the parking lot directly in front of Gladchuck Field (adjacent to McGuirk Stadium).

The Ceremony begins at 1pm, with MPS performing first. Please feel free to bring a lawn chair and enjoy the performance.

Checkout will be immediately following the closing ceremony. Remember to check all closets and drawers for your belongings before you leave.

All resident students must return keys and meal cards. There is a \$60.00 charge for lost keys and a \$20.00 charge for lost meal cards!

The Mobile Percussion Seminar and the University of Massachusetts are not responsible for personal belongings left in dorm rooms.

MPS Packing Checklist

- _____ UHS Medical Form and Waiver & Release Form
- _____ Comfortable clothes for marching and working in warm days and cool evenings.
- _____ Sneakers are recommended for all sessions, particularly for those enrolled in the Marching Percussion track.
- _____ Sunburn Protection. Please be prepared to work in the sun. Hats, sunscreen, sunglasses, and other precautionary items are highly recommended.
- _____ Pens/Pencils & 3-Ring Binder. You will need these items for all sessions. Make sure you put all of the camp information you received in the first section of your binder.
- _____ A Backpack. Students will carry their binder, pens/pencils, textbooks, sunscreen, and a water bottle to and from all sessions.
- _____ Linens/Bedding. You must provide your own bedding, which should include either twin size extra long sheets or a sleeping bag, a pillow, and blankets.
- _____ Toiletries. Toothbrush/toothpaste, shampoo/conditioner, soap or body wash, deodorant, towels, and other personal care items you will need.
- _____ An alarm clock is also a very good item to bring if you do not have a cell phone (most cell phones have alarms).
- _____ Cellphone Charger. If you are bringing a phone, be sure to remember a charger!
- _____ Portable Fan. The dorms may become warm in the evenings.
- _____ Instrument _____ Harness
- _____ Drum Key _____ Books (or money to buy them)
- _____ Sticks/Mallets

MPS Rules & Regulations

1. All student leaders are never late. Plan to be five minutes early to each session.
2. If you feel ill at any time and are unable to attend a scheduled session, please contact an MPS staff member immediately.
3. Name tags must be worn at all times.
4. Bring your 3-ring binder, pens/pencils, and other necessary equipment to all sessions. All students must have their own copies of 2 required books: *A PERCUSSIONIST'S GUIDE TO CHECK PATTERNS* and *CHAMPIONSHIP CONCEPTS FOR MARCHING PERCUSSION* workbook. You will use these texts throughout the week for reference, reading, and practice assignments.
5. Students are not permitted to leave campus at any time. If you drive to campus, your car must be parked and locked. You must give your keys to MPS office staff.
6. Visitation by persons who are not enrolled in MPS is not permitted.
7. Keep your room locked at ALL times. Do not leave money or other valuables anywhere on campus. The Mobile Percussion Seminar and the University of Massachusetts are not responsible for loss of personal property.
8. Absolutely NO smoking, alcohol, or illegal substances will be used, possessed, or exhibited by anyone during the seminar.
9. You may not, under any circumstances, visit the rooms or floors housing members of the opposite sex.
10. Room checks will be held each evening. "Lights out" is at 11pm and you must be in your room at this time.
11. Eat all provided meals, especially breakfast! You will need your energy.
12. Please leave your room in the same condition at the close of the Seminar as when you moved in and return your key and meal card. Each student will be charged \$60.00 for a key or \$20.00 for a meal card that is not returned. You will also be held financially responsible for any cleaning or repairs that need to take place as a result of your stay.
13. Failure to comply with these or any other regulations established by the Mobile Percussion Seminar will result in immediate dismissal from the Seminar WITHOUT a refund of fees/tuition. Your parents or legal guardian will be responsible for immediate transportation home.