

Answers to Commonly Asked Questions

Can I be in the band program and not be in the Marching Band?

Yes. Each year there are several students because of various reasons or preference who choose not to be in the marching band program. The marching band is one part of the total band program that includes Symphonic band, Jazz, and Percussion classes. To be eligible to be in marching band though you do have to be in a symphonic band or percussion class all year.

Can I participate in the fall marching band show if I did not participate during the summer?

Only under extenuating circumstances. Permission must be given from the director. The fees are the same whether summer band is participated in or not. We start the show in the summer and spend a lot of time on basics. We have shortened the summer practice time to give students more free time and feel that the summer time requirement is as minimal as possible.

What are the fees required by each student and what do they pay for?

The basic marching band fee is \$725 per student. These fees include all expenses for the summer and fall seasons as well as the St. George trip. Other fees involved would be black marching shoes if needed (\$35) and a polo shirt (\$35) if needed. The shoes and shirts are ordered through the band. Students playing a school instrument will still need to pay the normal \$70 rental fee from the district.

What other funds are needed?

Student fees cover expenses such as competition fees, the costs of buses, uniform upkeep, payment of staff, and food. It does not cover wear and tear on instruments, costs of repairs, and costs of new equipment and uniforms needed for our growing band. These costs are covered through fundraising efforts on the part of the Band Booster organization, and amounts to thousands of dollars each year.

Why do we do fundraising?

Student fees and other funds needed are considerable. Each year the Band Booster provides several fundraising opportunities. Some of the fundraisers are intended to help students earn money towards their individual fees. Other fundraisers are intended to raise money for costs not covered by student fees. See the fundraising page on the band website for updated information.

What should be worn under my band uniform?

You should wear a t-shirt, possibly the band t-shirt (show shirt), and light-weight shorts. Long johns are encouraged during cold weather performances. Uniforms will often be changed in parking lots so modesty is expected.

What do section leaders do?

Section leaders are students assigned to individual sections who will serve as the leaders of that section. They are selected on their musical and leadership abilities. They will conduct sectionals and social activities throughout the season and will work closely with the drum majors and the director.

What do the Drum Majors do?

The Drum Majors are the field conductors for the marching band. They help rehearse and conduct the performance of the band. They are responsible for the esprit de corps of the band and help to solve any personnel problems that occur during the season. They have major teaching responsibilities concerning marching style.

What is the time commitment for Marching Band?

The schedule for the marching band season can be viewed on the website calendar. Marching Band rehearsals begin the middle of May and the season ends with the St. George trip for State and Bands of

America region competitions. Once school begins in the fall every Monday will be sectionals from 2-3. Rehearsals will be held Tuesdays, and Wednesdays from 3-6 and Thursdays from 5-9. Students are expected to be to all rehearsals. Competitions are usually held on Saturdays, and the band plays at all home football games. Check the website often, as things can change.

Do I have to pay admission to watch my student perform in competitions?

Yes. Similar to other sporting events, competitions require admission. The costs vary, but are usually around \$5 per person and family passes are often available. Be advised that many competitions accept cash or check only and are not prepared to accept debit or credit cards. Come prepared!

Who do I contact when I have a question?

Most questions can be answered by a quick look at the website, or at the student contract given at the parent kick-off meeting. Section-parents are also a great resource, as well as Band Booster members listed on the website. And don't forget our director, Mr. Mangelson.

How do I volunteer?

There are plenty of volunteer opportunities in band! To begin with, be sure you sign up for the volunteer lists that will be at the kick-off meeting at the beginning of the season (a meeting held for parents and students). Beyond that, emails are sent out every week with band information including current volunteer needs. A contact number or an online sign-up sheet is provided in the email. Make sure your information, including correct email address, is up to date on the Charms site.

When does my student perform with the band?

(competitions, football games, concerts, etc.)The students have opportunities to perform in summer parades, football games in the fall and, of course, the competitions which also begin in the fall. Another opportunity is band concerts held during the school year. Check the website calendar for correct dates. If you have a google calendar, you can sync with the calendar and you will have the dates of each of the performances for the season.

How can my student be excused for family vacations?

An excuse form can be printed out from the band website. Fill it out and turn it in to a band director or drum major. The form needs be turned in two weeks in advance so they have time to plan around the missing student.

What are sectionals?

Each student is part of a section, depending on which instrument they student play. Besides regular band rehearsals, each section will have their own practice time once a week. This is determined by the section leader and usually lasts about an hour.

What is Cleaning Camp?

No soap or scrub brushes required! Cleaning camp comes around before the band begins their competitions and is a day-long camp devoted to "cleaning-up" (or polishing-up) their competition piece. Very important – and required by all students participating in the show. Check the calendar on the website for exact date.

If you have any further questions please feel free to contact Mr. Mangelson.

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