

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT MARCHING BAND

## **Q. What is the Marching Schedule? How will it impact my family's summer?**

A. See tentative/proposed schedule hand-out, for particularly the August, September and October marching band dates. The [schedule is available on our Web site](#) and as handouts throughout the season.

## **Q. Can you be in sports and marching band at the same time?**

A. YES! Many marching band and color guard members are also athletes. Scheduling can be arranged if you talk with your captain and director. Students who need extra study time may have to prioritize which activities they want to join.

## **Q. Can we take a family vacation in the summer if our teen is in Marching Band?**

A. YES! We are very realistic and flexible when it comes to summer schedules. It is very important to us that students have the opportunity to spend time with their families on their summer vacation. The most important thing to do is to communicate your absence prior to the missed rehearsal. Then we can work through whatever is missed by planning ahead.

## **Q. What does Marching Band Cost?**

A. The marching band fee for 2011 will be made available shortly along with forms and other details. Expenses include marching shoes. Gloves, food/meals. The remaining program costs are covered through a variety of fund-raising events sponsored by the Band Boosters throughout the year. Students and parents are expected to participate in those fundraisers. Remember, your investment in your child will teach them discipline, teamwork, coordination, manners, dedication, and they will get in great shape (not to mention, they will experience GREAT music).

## **Q. As a parent, what is involved in being a Band Booster?**

A. When your student joins Band, you automatically become a member of the Boosters. No additional paperwork, applications, or fees. We encourage all Booster parents to participate in our meetings and activities. The benefit to you is that you get to hear news about your child, even if they never tell you what happens at marching band! We have a lot of fun working on fund raising, making flags, hemming uniforms, building props and chaperoning great teenagers. When your teen registers for marching band, you will have an opportunity to indicate the activities that interest you.

## **Q. How will my child get to and from practice?**

A. Many of the older marching band kids drive to practice. You will receive a membership directory that could help you to arrange rides for your teen when needed. Parents are usually eager to carpool, also.

## **Q. My teen is not a great student and good organizer of time. How will they balance homework & marching band in the fall?**

A. Many students become more disciplined after joining marching band. Also, your teen will have great role models in marching band. Older students really work hard to help rookies (incoming freshmen) to understand how to stay on track with school and band. If your student is interested in help, there are many possibilities within the school to meet his/her needs. As a parent, you may need to help your teen prioritize homework ahead of the weekends that will be spent away at band shows. Many students bring their study materials along on field show weekends. Quiet/study time on the bus is often mandatory on longer trips.

## **Q. My teen is SHY & doesn't know anyone who's joining the band. Will he/she fit in with the group?**

A. YES! Each instrument section has section leaders who work hard to integrate all students in section activities. Many students develop lasting relationships, weird wardrobes, strange nicknames, and really take pride in their section T-shirts.

## **Q. My teen doesn't really play his instrument all that well. Are there auditions for marching band?**

A. NO! Everyone is welcome in marching band. All of this extra practice will really improve your student's playing ability. There are so many other dimensions to marching band that playing skill is really only one small part of the whole experience.

**Q. My teen is not very coordinated. How will he/she be able to march and play at the same time?**

A. It's a miracle! You won't believe this is the same teen you sent to the first practice when you see them in their final show. An amazing transformation occurs. It's from hard work and a lot of encouragement (and fun!).

**Q. Can my teen have a job and be in marching band?**

A. We sure hope so. Our teens need money for all the gloves and socks they lose and have to replace for marching band! Many students juggle jobs and band. Schedules should be arranged so that the student is not absent from practice.

**Q. What happens if there are conflicts with rehearsals, competitions, or other performances?**

A. There is one key to conflicts and that is COMMUNICATION!! We have many lines of communication e-mail, phone, or through the web-site. We will do our best to keep everyone informed with the schedule and the events happening. If conflicts arise please communicate them with either band director. Then we will work them out from there, if we don't know about the conflict then we can't work together to fix it!

DATES FOR FRESHMEN MINI BAND CAMP: Aug. 4<sup>TH</sup> and 5<sup>TH</sup>

DATES FOR BAND CAMP: Aug. 9<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>

First football game ½ time performance is September 16<sup>th</sup>

Other points to ponder:

1. **WHO MARCHES?** Concert Band, Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble and Jazz Band members participate in the marching season as well as freshman.

2. **ARE THERE INSTRUMENTS THAT ARE NOT PART OF THE MARCHING BAND?** Bassoon, oboe, bass clarinet are not Marching Band instruments.

Students who play these instruments can choose to play an alternate instrument such as clarinet, alto or tenor saxophone or possibly learn another instrument such as mellophone, trombone, baritone or tuba. Any student, including non – band students, may try out for Colorguard.

3. **WHAT IS A SECTIONAL?** The band director appoints the most experienced and highly qualified student of each instrument section to organize rehearsal sessions. Sectionals are held during the summer and then weekly during marching season. Students are expected to attend summer sectionals (with the exception of family vacations). Sectionals held during the school year are mandatory. Any conflicts with sectionals during the school year need to be resolved with the band director(s).

4. **WHAT IS MINI BAND CAMP?** All **new** marchers are required to attend for introduction to marching instruction. Clinics are run by drum majors and other student leadership, under the supervision of the band director(s).

5. **WHAT IS BAND CAMP?** Band camp is scheduled shortly before the start of the school year. Marching Band students need to make every effort to attend Band Camp. The 1/2 time performance, parade routine and all of the music for the season are learned during these days, with the assistance of several hired specialized staff. More importantly, this experience develops and promotes camaraderie, team spirit and unity. Students spend these days learning and mastering marching drills, music and parade routines. We also will have various social activities.

6. **CAN A STUDENT PARTICIPATE IN BOTH MARCHING BAND AND FALL SPORTS?** To avoid conflicts, students desiring to participate in fall sports must **CAREFULLY** cross reference the Marching Band performance dates with those of their sport. All conflicts need to be resolved with the Band director(s) no less than one week before the conflict.

**7. WHEN DOES THE MARCHING BAND REHEARSE?** Normally, the full band has a **mandatory** rehearsal before school hours during the marching season. Special situations/events might require extra rehearsals. The tentative planning schedule of Marching Band rehearsals and performances is available now. A complete schedule will be approved by May 2<sup>nd</sup>

**8. HOW OFTEN DOES THE MARCHING BAND PERFORM?** The band performs at all home games (3-4), Marching Band Festivals and Competitions, Hobo Days Parade, as well as other events.

**9. What should I buy?**

Black marching shoes, Black socks (3pr) for Band members. Color Guard purchases their own black jazz shoes and black jazz pants that they wear at rehearsals and, most likely, at competitions.. The Guard instructors can let you know what brands they recommend and what you need to purchase.

**10. What happens after Field Show season?**

The musicians in the Band continue on as Concert Band in the Winter and Spring, improving their overall musical skills. Percussion Ensemble and Woodwind/Brass work on Symphonic and Ensemble pieces during their class time.

**11. What and when is “Leadership Camp”?**

Leadership Camp is for selected Sophomore, Junior, and Seniors and will be held on The student leaders will help Mr. Stary and the drum major(s) organize the activities for Band Camp.

**12. Is there time for lessons in the Fall months during Field Show season?**

Absolutely. you can continue music lessons during the Fall season, you absolutely should.

**13. What about Honor Bands?**

Honor bands are audition groups which students apply to separately for performance in the Winter and early Spring. Auditions are generally held in late November and early December. As the name indicates, acceptance into an Honor Band is an honor, and speaks to an exceptional level of musical achievement. Information for the All-State band see [www.sdhsaa.org](http://www.sdhsaa.org) site.

**Q. (example) Evening Practices are scheduled until 9:00. When should I expect to pick up my student? A.** Oddly enough, not at 8:00 sharp :) The practices generally end at 9:00 *on the field*. After that, the kids head up to the band room, assisting the students who have equipment to return (Pit, percussion, flags). Depending on your student's level of (a) assistance (b) sociability (c) exhaustion, you may expect to pick him or her up at any time between 9:01 and 9:20 or so. You should set out your expectations with your student. Cell phones are very useful in this instance.

**What if I still have questions?**

Every new family could be paired with a more experienced “Booster Buddy” who could help from time to time. **Of course**, you can always contact our Director of Bands. Our contact information is: e-mail: [ronald.stary@k12.sd.us](mailto:ronald.stary@k12.sd.us) or office # 696-4192

**If I am in Concert Band, do I have to do Marching Band?**

*No. We do not have a “mandatory marching band” policy, which allows students that just aren’t able to fit marching band a chance to still be in our concert program.*

**If I want to march, do I have to do Concert Band?**

*No. All members of the marching band are encouraged to sign up for the class if possible, because we feel the best musical training comes from having band five days per week. However, not every band members is able to fit the class in their schedule.*

**If I am in the band classes, do I get anything extra to be in the Marching Band?**

*Yes, but not until your third year of membership in the band program. Collingswood offers a version of the band class that awards Honors credit. Part of the requirement for a student electing to take band for Honors credit is that the student is a member in good standing in the marching program.*

**Are there after school rehearsals? Are rehearsals every day?**

*Actually, the Marching Band rehearses only two evenings per week, to allow students time after school to do other things, such as sports and/or homework.*

**Does the Marching Band practice all year?**

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**How about during the summer?**

*The band rehearses once per week during the summer for about 3 hours. These are evening rehearsals. Our policy is that if the member is in town, they should be at these rehearsals. If they are out of town, the rehearsal is excused.*

**If I'm a member, do I have to come to band camp?**

*Band Camp (August 20-25) is an important part of the preparation for our fall season. During these days, the staff teaches about a month's worth of material to the group. Students come out of camp with a working knowledge of all of the band music and most of the field show. Aside from rehearsals, this is a great chance for the band members to get to know each other and bond as a group. We include fun activities during this week, such as games, and a cookout.*

**Where does band camp take place?**

**How many performances does the band do?**

*The band performs at all varsity football games, and usually does about 8 competitions. This comes out to usually one football game and one competition per weekend.*

**Can I switch to another instrument?**

*We encourage people that are interested in learning another instrument to consider an "in-demand" instrument, such as low brass or mellophone.*

**Will I be able to march and play at the same time? Will I be able to memorize my music?**

*Yes to both. We have a near-perfect success rate in teaching people to do both of these.*

**Does the band do trips?**

*We have performed in many places throughout the United States and Canada. We usually take a trip every year.*

**Do I have to do an audition for Marching Band? Can I be cut?**

*No. Marching band is open to anyone that plays an instrument, or has an honest desire to learn.*

**What is the marching band staff like?**

*Our staff is made up of music educators and people that specialize in areas of marching band instruction. They are dedicated to the education of all members of our program and work hard to help each student succeed, while still maintaining a fun atmosphere in the program.*

**Will marching band benefit me in the future?**

*Marching band not only helps with music skills, but also helps develop students physically and mentally, and helps to foster leadership and social skills. The physical nature of the activity helps kids to stay in shape, much like a phys. ed. class. Marching band also helps with organizational and time management skills. Colleges not only look for academic subjects from applicants, but also look for extra-curricular activities.*

**If I am a musician in Concert Band, do I have to play in Marching Band, or can I be in the color guard?**

*While we encourage any student that plays an instrument to do so every chance they get, we do have members in our guard program that are in the daytime band classes.*

**Is Color Guard a class?**

*No. At this time, color guard is strictly an extra-curricular or co-curricular activity.*

**Are there after school rehearsals? Are rehearsals every day?**

*Actually, the Marching Band rehearses only two evenings per week, to allow students time after school to do other things, such as sports and/or homework. Color Guard normally rehearses during the same times as the full band, but may have small group sectionals at other convenient times.*

**Does the Color Guard practice all year?**

*No. The rehearsal schedule is identical to the schedule of the full band. This is actually just the first marking period of the school year.*

**I play sports. There's no way I can do marching band or color guard, right?**

*Many of our band members are involved in fall sports or plays.*

**I take dance lessons, or do gymnastics, or theater. How can I do both?**

*Part of what we teach is the skill of time management. If you are a dancer, gymnast, or actor, you already have most of the skills necessary to be successful in a color guard. If you are willing to work with us on the schedule, we are willing to work out conflicts with outside programs. The best solution is one that allows the student to be a member of the color guard, and outside programs. We have been successful with almost every student.*

**Do I have to learn how to twirl a flag?**

*Today's color guard is more than using a flag. Guard members use various types of equipment to create a visual effect, including silks, rifles, sabers, and body work. Also included is training in dance.*

**Do I have to do an audition for Color Guard? Can I be cut?**

*Guard is open to anyone that has an honest desire to learn, and is willing to make the commitment. We do not make cuts. We do assign roles in the guard based on ability.*

**What is the marching band / color guard staff like?**

*Our staff is made up of music educators and people that specialize in areas of marching band instruction. They are dedicated to the education of all members of our program and work hard to help each student succeed, while still maintaining a fun atmosphere in the program.*

**Will marching band benefit me in the future?**

*Marching band and guard not only help with performance skills, but also helps develop students physically and mentally, and helps to foster leadership and social skills. The physical nature of the activity helps kids to stay in shape, much like a phys. ed. class. Marching band also helps with organizational and time management skills. Colleges not only look for academic subjects from applicants, but also look for extra-curricular activities.*

**We hope that we have covered some of your questions. Please feel free to contact us with any further questions. We look forward to possibly having you become a part of our award-winning program!**

# What do we need on overnight trips???

## Things to Remember for trips

**Luggage will not be available until later in the day...don't pack uniform items and other necessary items in your luggage...use a carry on.**

- < Instrument labeled with your name, town & High School on them
- < Reeds, Valve Oil, Mouthpieces, ligatures, Braces, Extra heads, sticks, ect....
- < Swim suit .....during showers....optional
- < Plastic bags for wet towels & swim suits & dirty clothes
- < uniforms in uniform bag
- < hats & plumes
- < Black gloves...**Not in Your Luggage**
  
- < Dinkle Marching shoes **WITH YOUR NAMES IN THEM, and clean! And Not in your luggage**
  
- < **Black socks...Not In your Luggage**
- < Sleeping Bag & Pillow.....labeled
- < medication readily accessible....**not in your luggage**
- < Towel and other toiletries (We use locker room showers)
- < Water Bottles/Gatorade....**Stay off of the pop and caffeine....Dehydration!**
- < Sack Lunch(s) and Munchies Cooler
- < Money for meals...**Not in your luggage**
- < Homework
  
- < **Personal Coordinates & Music!!!!!!!**