

## **Answers to Commonly Asked Questions**

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

Yes. Each year there are several students because of various reasons or preference who chose not to be in the marching band program. The marching band is one part of the total band program which includes Symphonic, Concert, Jazz and Percussion classes.

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

Only under extenuating circumstances. 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. We are also extremely flexible in accommodating family vacations, participation in summer camps, and other summer activities.

### **What are the additional costs?**

New students will be required to obtain black MTX marching shoes at an approximate cost of \$35 for a new pair. Replacement gloves can be purchased for \$3. Most students want a band jacket at a cost of approximately \$55. All these items can be purchased through the booster association.

### **Can a student receive P.E. credit for marching band?**

The state has decided that Marching Band does not qualify for PE credit. The main reason given is that the teachers are not certified to teach PE. We are in the process of fighting this decision but for next year it is not possible to give PE credit for marching band.

### **What will take place at band camp?**

This period of time is a concentrated 5-day period for all students to receive help not only from the directors but from additional staff members brought in to provide individual and small group training. The entire field show will be taught. Attendance at band camp is not optional!

### **What is B.L.T.?**

This is Band Leadership Training. In May there is a camp held at American Fork H.S. conducted by a national leadership group. It is a fabulous workshop and is highly recommended for anyone to attend. The cost is approximately \$15 for the workshop and you will need to find your own transportation to the camp.

### **How do I clean the uniform?**

All uniform parts should be cleaned ONLY BY OUR UNIFORM COMMITTEE. Should an individual student or parent damage or alter the appearance of the uniform, the full cost of replacement will be required at the student's / parents' expense.

### **What should be worn under my band uniform?**

You should wear a black T-shirt, possibly the band T-shirt and light-weight compression shorts. Long johns are encouraged during cold weather performances. Uniforms will be changed in the parking lot so modesty is encouraged.

### **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.

**If my student chooses not to march as a 9<sup>th</sup> grader, can they still join as sophomores?**

Yes. Marching as a 9<sup>th</sup> grader is totally optional and we would hope they would join with us in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade.

**What is the time commitment for Marching Band?**

A complete calendar is included with this handbook. Attendance at rehearsals is crucial to our success and any absences must have prior approval. Time commitment is similar to involvement on any major sporting team. Color Guard and Percussion will have additional practices.

**What transportation arrangements are available?**

9<sup>th</sup> graders are expected to organize car pools to get them to the H.S. by 3 PM. A parent committee will help to organize this transportation.

**What is the total cost of marching band?**

The basic marching band cost is \$300. (including the \$150. deposit). Tour will typically be an additional \$300-\$500. The total cost will be between \$750 & \$875. The total cost of the tour is still tentative. New students will need to purchase marching shoes for approximately \$35, replacement gloves are \$3 each. (the first pair is given with the uniform) Most students will also want an optional band jacket that sells for \$55.

**Are there fund raising opportunities to help defray these costs?**

The band will conduct at least two fund raising campaigns during the fall season. We will not involve students in fund raisers that yield less than 75% profit. Many students are able to meet 100% of their financial obligation through our fund raising efforts.

**What is the payment structure?**

In order to determine the exact numbers we will be designing the show for, we require students and parents to sign a contract that is submitted along with the first \$150 payment by May 1st. The second \$150 payment is due by the end of the second week of school. No payment is collected in August because of school registration costs.

**What do we do about family summer vacations and scout/girls camps?**

The only summer activity that is absolutely mandatory is the band camp during August. Attendance at other scheduled rehearsals, performances, and events is crucial, but we do understand that families will have plans during the summer and we work to cooperate with families in finding a solution that is in the students' best interest. Specific concerns about attendance can be brought to Mr. Fallon's attention, and will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

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