

Marching Band Frequently Asked Questions

For more information, visit www.hastingsbands.org

Q. What is the Marching Schedule? How will it impact my family's summer? A. The schedule will be available at www.hastingsbands.org as soon as it's made. Practices begin the end of May and run every Tuesday/Thursday night through October. With the exception of the bi-year trip and camp lock in.

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 coach and director.

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

A. YES! Every band member needs to submit the dates they will miss marching band activities. Band members MUST attend the Band Camp which will be held July 24-30. First year band students should attend as many rehearsals as possible because there is SO MUCH to learn.

Q. What does Marching Band Cost?

A. Participation fees for the 2011 season are approximately \$300, depending on what the student will need to purchase. The cost of band camp is approx \$350. Exact breakdown of costs are found on our website, and given out at the parent meetings. 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). There is scholarship assistance for families, payment options, as well as many fundraising opportunities.

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

A. When your student joins Marching Band, or 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, and chaperoning great teenagers. When your teen registers for marching band, you will have an opportunity to indicate the activities that interest you. The meetings are listed on the website.

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 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.

Q. Can my teen be in orchestra and marching band?

A. Yes. Some orchestra students pick up completely different instruments for marching band. Other orchestra students join the color guard.

Q. Does my child have to be in band to be in marching band?

A. They need enrolled in an instrumental program, either band or orchestra, during the day, with the exception of honor guard and color guard.

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 group 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.

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 with their boss, so that their work schedule does not overlap their marching schedule. The marching schedules are posted many months in advance, giving students enough time to notify their bosses.

Q. Do I need to provide transportation to any events?

A. No. Your child needs a ride to the high school before a show. Every child will ride the bus to and from a performance. If you want to pick them up at the end, I will need to release them to you only.

Q. Can I earn a varsity letter in marching band?

A. A child will letter in band, and being in marching band will earn them 80% of the required points towards the letter. Attendance guidelines are set up for marching band in order to earn the points. Color guard will earn a guard letter.

**Parent/Student Meeting for First Year Marchers: Tuesday, January 25 6:00pm.
High School Band Room.**

If you are not able to attend or would like more information, please contact Emily Chandler, Director at echandler@seasparish.org.

The first practice for marching band is Sunday, May 22nd from 5-8pm