

MCQUEEN BAND FAQ

What is the Marching Band?

The Marching Band is an award-winning musical ensemble consisting of students from grades 9 through 12. The Band performs frequently in the community, at football and basketball games, and at band reviews/parades and field show competitions.

Students will improve instrumental skills as well as acquire skills in precision teamwork, body carriage, musicianship, and showmanship. This course counts as P.E. credit towards graduation. Attendance at rehearsals and performances is required.

1. We march, we play music, we have a great time performing and making friends
2. We are active in the summer with rehearsals, performances, and band camp (August). Band camp attendance is essential for the success of the band.
3. We compete throughout Nevada and northern California in parade and field shows.
4. We raise money to travel and be able to purchase necessary music and instruments (One bus will cost \$48 an hour, plus \$4 per mile. A typical all-day trip will cost over \$2,500, per bus.)

What is Color Guard?

Color Guard is an attached unit of the McQueen Lancer Marching Band whose members represent the music visually, with various flags, sabers, rifles, or other props.

Color Guard members are required to attend all mandatory Marching Band functions. The marching “season” lasts from August until mid-December, with many Saturdays committed to band activities. After December, Color Guard continues with Winter Guard for performance and competition during the Spring semester.

Is there an audition required to join the band?

No one is turned away from band as we welcome everyone. A placement audition is held for the percussion section. A clinic and audition is used for the Color Guard.

Do you have to know how to march to be in the band?

NO! Marching experience is not required of anyone interested in becoming a member of the band. We understand that there is no marching in junior high school. We train you on marching technique at band camp.

How long is the marching season?

Marching season starts with band camp in August and typically lasts until a parade or bowl performance in December. Our last field show competition typically occurs mid-November.

How much of the student’s time does it take?

Marching Band practice is Monday and Wednesday from 5:45 – 8:45 p.m. Rehearsals take place on the back parking lot and football field. Parade rehearsal occurs in the parking lot or on the track. In addition, there are hour-long sectionals, ranging from at least once to three times per month, depending on the progress of the section. We usually perform at all home football games, including Homecoming. Saturdays are devoted to performances and competitions. See the calendar for the latest information.

What about schedule conflicts?

Early communication with the band director is essential to work out possible schedule conflicts. Students in the past have been able to participate in both band and outside activities such as scouts, drum corps, and sports such as soccer, football, tennis, swimming, track and field, basketball, cross country, etc.

What does the student need beside an instrument?

A positive attitude and willingness to learn are always welcome. Larger instruments and equipment are provided by the music department. The marching uniform is also provided. Marching shoes are purchased separately. Typically, this is a one-time cost. Students will have the opportunity to try on marching shoes at the uniform fitting in August so that the correct size can be ordered for them.

What do Color Guard students need?

Color Guard uniforms will be purchased, depending on the field show and parade music selected for the season. Uniform shoes and accessories will also need to be purchased.

What is so hard about marching?

Using muscles that you have not used previously. You will be on your toes a good portion of the day, marching backwards, side to side, staying in formation, staying on the beat. This comes more natural to some more than others. Being athletic does not necessarily mean this will be easy.

Is marching band really considered a team sport?

It is an intellectually challenging sport. You will need to think constantly - am I on the right spot, am I on beat, am I in step, where am I going next. We all work together as a team. Each member is significant. We must all be in line, on the same beat, etc. If one person is out of place it may affect the whole team.

Everyone is on the Varsity Team!

Please do not be reckless or put yourself in situations where you can be injured. We need everyone on the field. If you break a leg or arm, you may not be able to march. - Don't be afraid to ask questions. All of the upperclassmen are glad to help all rookies. Their goal is to have the best band and want you to be your best.

What's a section?

A section is a group of individuals who all play the same instrument or similar types of instruments. For example, Clarinets, trumpets, battery, pit, and low reeds, are each sections.

Student Marching Band Leadership

During the spring, upperclassmen can try out for Section Leader or Drum Major positions.

Drum Major(s): In charge of helping students with marching fundamentals, conducting music, and maintaining discipline. Next to the director and assistant director, the drum major is in charge.

Section Leaders: Responsible for checking off marching fundamentals and music memorization for the students in their section. Section leaders also aid in maintaining discipline during rehearsal.

What is Band Camp?

Band Camp at McQueen is the time when all the members, old and new, of the band and color guard get together to learn how to march, play, and perform the music for the upcoming season's field show and parade.

At camp, students meet new friends, learn marching and playing fundamentals, start learning the field show and parade routine, and have a concentrated time for music, with no outside distractions. The students form friendships with each other, at all grade levels, making them feel welcome before summer ends and high school starts.

You begin to learn what the leaders will expect of us, such as: Arrive early each day, be prepared (make sure you have all items needed for the whole day), Have a good attitude (do what is asked of you - no one gets special treatment.) Be prepared to work hard and impress the leaders, and more importantly yourself.

What should I bring to Band Camp? Large refillable water bottle or several water bottles. It is recommended you bring a larger bottle. Bring a backpack to carry music, water bottles, lunch, and snacks. It's recommended you bring sunscreen and apply it regularly, especially if you have fair skin, as we will be in the sun most of the day. Sunglasses recommended but not required. Good sneakers with support are required. Converse or skater shoes are not recommended due to lack of support. Hats are encouraged, especially if not wearing sunglasses.

How will I know my marching assignments?

Assignments are determined by the section leaders, drum majors, and director. Your assignment can also be determined by your attendance. Most of the assignments are fairly equal. However, the harder assignments will be assigned to upper classman.

What if I am an alternate?

If you are an alternate, you will need to take your part seriously. You will need to learn all of the drill for your assigned part. The only difference between being a regular marcher versus an alternate is that you may not march in every show. Alternates are very important, as they sometimes must learn another marcher's drill in a short period of time.

What competitions and events do they participate in?

Typically, the Marching Band performs in local parades, home football games, and all-day-long band reviews and field show competitions. In the past, the band has been asked to perform at community events, such as the Reno Rodeo Parade, The Incline Red, White & Blues Festival, The Graeagle 4th of July Parade, Veterans Day Parade, grand openings of various local businesses, and many school events. McQueen has participated in the Rose Parade, the Hollywood Christmas Parade, The Fiesta Bowl, a Presidential Inauguration to name a few.

Transportation

The school will provide transportation to and from most away events. If provided, all students must ride to the event in the school-sponsored transportation; however, a student may return with his/her parents after checking out with the band coordinator.

What is a typical competition day like?

A typical competition day begins in the 8am hour. All members meet at the school, we usually rehearse the show, have a snack or lunch. The truck and buses are loaded, and the caravan heads to the competition destination. Once at the competition site, the truck and busses are unloaded and last-minute preparations take place. Students relax and are fed by the BPA and then rehearse for field show competition. After the field competition, students change out of uniform and respectfully watch the remaining shows. At the end of the field competition, there is an awards ceremony, a snack, load the truck and buses and the return trip home.

Parents, families, and friends are encouraged to attend these events to support and cheer on the students. There is always an entry fee to attend the field show competitions, usually about \$10 per person.

What do students need to bring to competitions?

Besides their instrument, they should have their current year show shirt and black socks, it is helpful to bring along a change of pants or shorts, a light jacket, other shoes, musical accessories such as reeds or sticks, money for food or souvenirs, and a blanket for when the nights get chilly.

EXTRAVAGANZA!

Held in early October, this marching band contest is a HUGE fundraiser for our program. Students and parents will be asked to help sell ads in our program, as well as volunteer time in preparation and the day of the event. We see about 5000 students and parents on our campus throughout the day!

What is the biggest change from middle school to high school?

More homework; you will need to manage your time well. The intensity and maturity level is stepped up in high school. Be prepared if upperclassmen expect you to act more mature but don't be afraid to have fun and get to know them better.

How much does marching band cost?

The band receives **no** funding from the school or school district to cover transportation to performances, uniforms, entry fees, or instrument repair or purchases. Marching Band fees for 2016 are \$500 per student.

Additional Fees

- \$40 marching band shoes (one-time fee for new band students)
- \$110 Tuxedo for boys during winter semester (one-time fee for new band students)
- \$70 Formal dress for girls during winter semester (one-time fee for new band students)

In order to cover these costs, students are encouraged to earn the money through various fund raisers to help raise money for the music program and lower costs for the students. Donations are always welcome and gladly accepted.

Instrument Check Out

The McQueen Band has a limited number of school-owned instruments that may be checked-out with director permission. The check-out fee is \$50 for the year to cover the cost of cleaning and minor repair. Students who cause major damage to the instrument through abuse or neglect will be responsible for the repair of the instrument.

Winter Guard

Winter guard is an indoor activity, which incorporates drama, dance, and equipment skills, performed to recorded music. McQueen participates in a circuit of approx. 20 schools that compete against each other, beginning in January, through March. Auditions for Winter Guard take place after the conclusion of Marching Band. Band students as well as interested students from the campus are encouraged to audition.

Winter Percussion

Winter percussion is an indoor activity, which incorporates drama, percussion playing and marching. All percussionists are highly encouraged to participate in this activity, and open spots in the group will be open to others who are not percussionists. This group rehearses evenings and weekends to prepare for competitions.

What does being in Marching Band and Color Guard mean to the students?

For many, band becomes a second family, where there is a support system in place to help students deal with the stresses of high school life. Younger students receive help and wisdom from older members. Older members receive the opportunity to mentor a younger student, offering guidance and support.

How does band affect grades?

The network of experienced students one meets in the band can help with other academic classes. Throughout life, we must juggle various activities, whether it is work, school, family, hobbies, or other interests. Students who learn to balance and prioritize their time commitments end up being more successful later in life. Band should not be the only or first reason grades suffer, if a student takes the time to get organized. Being in an active group gives the students the opportunity to learn how to balance school, extra-curricular activities, and other interests.

What is the BPA?

As an organized booster club, the parents in the McQueen Band Parents Organization serve as chaperones on band trips, distribute uniforms, feed the band and provide much-needed financial assistance for music and equipment purchase, just to name a few duties. The Band Parents Organization provides support for the entire band program. Membership is free and open to all. Meetings start at 7:00pm, the 1st Wednesday of each month, in the Band Room.

Fundraising

In order to fund special activities of the bands, fund raising opportunities will be provided. All students are expected to take part in fund raising. All members should be willing to support the program from which they expect rights and privileges. Funds raised will be deposited into the booster account and will be used for band activities and expenses. Funds raised are raised under the banner of the McQueen BPA. We are a 501(c)3 organization.

The McQueen Band Boosters provide many items, opportunities, scholarships, staffing and equipment to the total band program throughout the year. Funds raised from the following sources go into the band "General Fund", and are spent based on the needs of the program. While none of the fundraising events are required, please know that a great deal of money is raised and spent on ALL members of the band.

While the school and district support us, in order to provide a world-class experience to our students, the band boosters must provide additional funds. The boosters provide money for supplemental instruction, food on long day-trips, instruments, equipment, design costs and items, while not required of a public school, set the McQueen Band apart and provide our students with the very best instruction and supplies of any band in the country.

Will the students be required to do fundraising?

Each marching band member is encouraged to help raise their fair share. There are many opportunities throughout the year to raise money to cover costs. Students are not forced to do fundraising, nor are they excluded from any activity, based on inability to pay.

Who can I contact if I have any questions?

Most questions can be answered by your section leaders or drum majors. If that doesn't work, email Mr. Moffit at rmoffit@washoeschools.net.

Stay in touch with the McQueen Band

communications@mcqueenband.org

Email – newsletters go out on Wednesday and Fridays during Marching season, Mondays the rest of the year.

Text messaging for **students**, Enter this number (775) 473-2246, with this message @mcqband
or www.remind.com/join/mcqband

Text messaging for **parents**, Enter this number (775) 473-2246, with this message @mcqbpa
or www.remind.com/join/mcqbpa

Website: McQueenband.org The "Parent" button is a great place to connect us parents to information and the Band Parent Association contacts and information.

FaceBook: Ask to join our group *McQueenBand*.