



Frequently Asked Questions

Does the school provide band uniforms?

Yes, the school provides uniforms for the marching band; however, students must provide their own black socks. They must also purchase their own band t-shirt (which is included in marching band fees and is to be worn under the uniform jacket), black marching band shoes, and gloves. Members of the basketball band will be provided with a basketball band shirt.

During concert season, portions of the uniform will be provided by the school. Students will need to provide a white undershirt, concert dress shirt, black socks or pantyhose, black dress shoes, and accessories as needed.

What band fees can we expect to pay?

The school district does not provide all of the funding that is needed to support a quality band programs such as ours. Fundraising activities and direct payments by parents/students must cover the additional expenses. Once fees are finalized, parents will be notified. The total fees for the marching season depend on a number of variables, including final costs of items, meals, travel expenses, and other factors. Outstanding balances will be noted and communicated to students and parents in a timely fashion.

Below are items that may contribute to student's fees for the year:

- Marching shoes – Previous year's shoes are acceptable if they are in good shape.
- T-shirts
- Gloves
- Concert uniform accessories
- Trip fees
- Color guard uniforms/supplies

The following items are NOT included in the student fees, but may be incurred as extra costs depending on a student's level of involvement:

- All-OkMEA Audition fee – Only available for 10th through 12th graders.
- CODA Audition fee
- Solo & Ensemble fees (district and state)

What is the trip fee?

In the past, the JMHS Band has traveled to out-of-state competitions for both marching and concert events. Past trips have been to Orlando, Atlanta, New York, St. Louis, Washington D.C. and Chicago. In order for reservations to be made and deposits placed, a specific payment schedule will be announced as early as possible. Fundraising opportunities will be announced along with more specific information about trips as soon as possible. OSSAA eligibility will also affect participation in out-of-state competition. Please refer to the band handbook for more information on eligibility.

What kind of commitment is my student making for marching band?

In order to march in the fall show ("show" is the term the band uses for the performance at half-time and competitions), a student must participate in the following:

- Pre-Band Camp – this camp takes place a week before band camp. Veterans and Rookies participate at pre-camp but have different schedules based on their experience levels. See the summer schedule for details and times for new rookie members.
- Band Camp is MANDATORY of all band students. Students will need to plan to stay all day and will be fed lunch and dinner. Suggested items for band camp: caps, sunscreen, water jugs/camelback, chapstick, lightweight and light color clothing.
- Marching Band Practice (1st block each day during the first semester) – Rehearsals on Tuesday extend until 6:30 p.m. Rehearsals on Saturday extend from 9:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.
- Students are encouraged to make arrangements for transportation home after rehearsal and likewise to secure transportation to the Tuesday evening rehearsals and Saturday morning rehearsals.
- Students must be enrolled in the marching band course to participate.

The band performs at all home football games and meets at the stadium prior to the game for warm-up. Students may sign up for a volunteer pep band for some away games. In addition to performing at the home football games, marching band members participate in several competitions during the fall.

Call Times for band events vary and will be announced to the students as the season progresses. This information is routinely announced via our communication channels prior to events.

Can I do High School Band and be enrolled in Honors/AP/Pre-AP classes?

YES! If you have been told balancing band and class is impossible, please DO NOT LISTEN! In fact, most of our band members are enrolled in at least one (92%) or at least two (85%) above level classes! Over the past two (2) full school years.

Can I do High School Band if I am ALSO in (INSERT SPORT/CLUB/ACTIVITY HERE)?

YES! Your band directors, coaches, and teachers are all aware that many students are involved (AND SUCCESSFUL) in multiple activities. In the JMHS Band, we have members involved in all sports at JMHS and a variety of extracurricular clubs. With a little effort, you will be successful and have fun. Communication is key.

Why should I join the high school band?

Joining the band is beneficial because it allows you to have an immediate group of like-minded people, which is excellent for fast friends. By being surrounded by people who have been in high school, it also gives an introduction to how High School works prior to its start. It also teaches you time management, helps you refine your unique style of leadership, and helps you find yourself in a supportive group.

Is it like the Middle School Band?

Nope, pop the 'p'. It's very different; the music is a lot more challenging because it's no longer assuming you're learning the instrument but rather improving on how to play it.

The high school band is not set up by "grades" either. There is no "9th Grade Band", "10th Grade Band", etc. It is divided into groups based on ability and balance of the ensembles. Not only that, but there are also opportunities to explore music in your own way. Small ensembles with options to perform and (for experienced members) to direct, jazz bands, opportunities to arrange and compose, and groups that play everything from classical pieces to iconic movie soundtracks; there are infinitely more ways to enjoy what you do!

Is the Marching Band the whole year?

Yes and no— the extracurricular marching season ends around November-December, depending on our football season. However, we have our spring trip in the spring, and then leadership interviews roll around just after. So, while the marching season isn't the entirety of the year, it will affect your whole year. The benefits of marching will likewise be felt throughout the entire year seen through personal improvements as a musician, both on and off the instrument.

What is the time commitment?

Though the time commitment is rather great, it's nothing you can't do. We practice several times a week, the specifics can be found on the home page on the calendar. That being said, students in the marching band are all in the same boat. We help each other, academics are certainly no exception. With students in pretty much every class, it would be impossible not to find somebody who can help you.

Can I do sports and Marching Band?

It depends— spring sports: yes. Fall and winter sports are possible but less so. As our competitions are almost always on Saturdays, it will interfere with meets with sports like Cross Country. As winter sports start conditioning around the time the marching band is winding down, it is easier to do a winter sport than a fall sport. Be sure to actively communicate with your coaches and Mr. Gillette to work out the specifics!

Is Marching Band Audition Based?

Nope, anyone is capable of doing it. We do have auditions to be in a leadership position, and those are at the end of the year.

What is student leadership, and how does it work?

Student leadership is made of the various students who have duties to help teach and improve the band. Towards the end of the school year, there are interviews for whichever position you may want. The results are typically released at the Band Awards Night and take effect the following season. Student Leadership positions include office staff, the hard-working people who work to provide music and drill books, equipment staff, those responsible for making sure everything is set up, Drum Majors, Captains, Section Leaders, and more!

Do I have to be in one of the concert bands to be in the marching band?

Depends— the color guard section comprises students who don't play in a band and come from the general student population. You don't need to be in a wind band to be in this section. We also have orchestra students play percussion on the sideline. To do that, you need to be a member of the chorus or the orchestra. If you play a wind instrument, you need to be in one of the main wind bands (Concert, Symphonic, or Wind Ensemble). This is because all of the things we do in there will directly improve our musicality on the field which accounts for 60% of our score in competitions.

I am not a Freshman; can I still join as a Sophomore, Junior, or Senior?

You can, though it's a lot easier to start as a freshman - if you join later, you will have to work hard to catch up to your peers, but joining later isn't the end of the world. We always accept those driven enough to participate at any point in their high school career! YOLO!

I am in Guitar or choir, can I do the marching band without being in one of the concert bands?

Yes, you can still join without being in a concert band. Some neither! If you don't want to play an instrument but still want to be in the marching band, the color guard is another excellent option.

I want to be in the Color Guard, do I have to be in the regular Concert Band?

You don't! A lot of the guard is composed of people that are in orchestra and choir. There are even some that are in no performing groups. A background in dance is a plus, but not required.

If I do not have a reliable form of transportation to rehearsals/games/competitions, what should I do?

Talk to Mr. Ewing or members of your section! We have plenty of Junior and Senior members who have their licenses and may be able to pick you up and drop you off from events. Transportation to events like competitions and games are always provided by the school, so members only need transportation from home to the school and back.

What can I do between school and night rehearsals? Can I go home? Can I stay at school?

You can do either. We have vending machines, or you can bring some snacks and stay or go home and come back on time. If you stay, it is a perfect opportunity for you to do your homework. There are computers available, and Mr. G can even arrange for you to be in the library if you need access to that. Small ensembles can rehearse, you can practice your instrument, and more!

Will I have time to do the marching band with my school workload?

Absolutely! It takes getting used to at first but, eventually, you get the hang of it and learn to manage your time. Time management is an incredible skill to learn for both your academic career and your life outside of high school, and the marching band helps teach it.

How much does it cost? Payment plans?

\$100 plus shoes and guard/instrument rental fees if applicable. You don't have to pay it all at once. Payment plans are an option, just talk to Mr. E if \$\$ is an issue.

How are the fees spent?

The fee pays for the music for the show, the drill, show shirt, gloves, flip -folders/lyres (new members), food for competitions, logistics (truck rental/gas for trailer haulers), adult staff, props, costumes (Guard), flags, uniform costs (cleaning/repair), plus a whole lot more. It is a bargain for what you get. Memories are priceless!

Are there any big overnight trips?

We have one in the Fall where we spend a weekend as a band playing various places and then seeing amusement parks and/or different touristy places - just having fun.

What does a typical rehearsal for the Marching Band look like?

We usually start by warming up our muscles and doing some stretches; then, we'll do practice block where we clean up and get used to marching. After that, we end up getting our instruments out and warming up, then we'll clean the show and music.

What does a typical day of Marching Band Camp look like?

We'll do some icebreakers to get to know each other; then we'll learn how to march and do some PT. When it's not too hot, we learn the drill for our show, and we'll occasionally split into sectionals by instrument or brass and woodwind sectionals to learn music. During some rehearsals, we practice the music we play in the stands at football games. After the first half of the day, we have an hour break for lunch; then we usually rehearse again in sections until break time and dinner. After that, we return to rehearsal in the cool(er) afternoon until the day is done!

What are my options if I have food allergies?

We make sure that the dietary needs of all members of the band are met. Whether you're a vegetarian, pescatarian, vegan, gluten-free, or just have food allergies, meals can be provided that meet your needs during band camp.

Tell people, and we'll serve you separately with a special version of the meal (fun!) - same goes with being vegetarian, vegan, pescatarian, or any other dietary needs. You can also bring your own snacks.

