

Why join the Marching Patriots?

Why should I join marching band as a student?

There are many reasons to join the Marching Patriots! We surveyed our current band students & this is what they had to say:

Q: Would you recommend that rising 9th graders join marching band?

A: Yes! (100%)

Q: In your opinion, is high school band better or more fun than middle school band?

A: Yes! (100%)

Q: Do you feel like you have made new friends because you were in marching band?

A: Yes! (97%)

Q: If you did not join marching band in 9th grade, do you wish you had?

A: Yes! (100%)

Q: What would you tell incoming freshmen about band?

A:

- “Band really feels like a home with one crazy family.” (12th grader)
- “You make experiences in band you won’t make anywhere else. Friendships are lifelong & the family community is strong.” (12th grader)
- “Band is a place where you can always feel safe!” (11th grader)
- “It’s a lot of fun.” (10th grader)
- “Do it! You make so many friends & have a great time.” (9th grader)
- “It is better than middle school & you play cooler things.” (10th grader)
- “You’ll like it.” (10th grader)
- “The best choice I have ever made.” (9th grader)
- “I thought I would be too busy & overwhelmed by high school to join, but being in band made it easier with all of my new friends helping me with everything.” (9th grader)
- “Don’t be afraid to try new things & join marching band. It can seem like a lot at first, but once you start & meet new friends, you won’t want to go home. All of the leaders & staff are there for you & will help you. I can’t imagine not being in band & I hope all the new people try it out.” (12th grader)

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Why should my student join marching band?

- **Relationships.** Marching band offers a camaraderie that is second to none. When people experience hard work for a common purpose, enjoy the thrill of the positive experiences as well as developing resilience through adversity. All the while, they grow in appreciation of each other.
- **Respect of self, others, & structure.** Marching band members can develop deep self respect, respect for others in their own sections, a thorough knowledge of their individual section role as well as what their function is in the ensemble as a whole. Without this individual development, rehearsals would be chaotic and nothing would get done to improve. As important, students must also have an understanding and appreciation for the leadership hierarchy of a marching band – from the director, to the drum major, to the section leader, to the individual performer. This understanding and willingness to thrive and improve within that hierarchy allows bands to flourish. This leadership hierarchy can be found in higher education as well as the corporate, military, and manufacturing worlds that the students may find themselves a part in post – high school.
- **Leadership & discipline.** Perhaps more than in classroom ensembles, marching band allows for students to gain skills in leadership and discipline. Uniformity of both musical and visual performance, carriage, bearing, style, and focus are required in marching band. Servant leadership is a key component to student marching bands. Section leaders, coaches, and drum majors are just some of the roles taken that can be taken on by student leadership in marching bands. These student leaders learn how to effectively communicate and offer positive reinforcement and constructive criticism to their peers. Many are also able to utilize skills in conflict management and problem solving to move the group forward.
- **Physical benefits.** These are obvious. Marching band provides rigorous exercise. Participants undergo aerobic and cardio workouts during rehearsals and performances, as well as muscular development carrying instruments and using correct marching style. Looking to get 10,000 steps in a day? Try a parade marching band rehearsal!
- **Ability to multitask.** One of the first things your child will learn while in marching band is to multi-task. Take marching for example, not only is marching in set formations a challenge, but so is playing an instrument in unison to memorized music! Because this complex task is performed daily by marching band members, this learned ability to multi-task will come in handy later in your child's life and will become crucial for day-to-day success.
- **Responsibility.** Responsibility means being dependable, making good choices and taking accountability for your actions. When it comes to marching band, each

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member is held accountable for various responsibilities. A color guard member, for example, is normally responsible for memorizing their flag work, while a tuba player has the responsibility of memorizing the music they need to perform. Responsibility is essential to establishing a strong work ethic, leading a healthy lifestyle and fostering independence. Taking accountability also encourages student learning and aids in better academic performance and achievements. By being accountable for their own responsibilities, your child will become a more independent, self-reliant and responsible member of society.

- **Importance of commitment.** The marching band is a time-consuming, all-weather sport. Your child will take part in uncomfortable summer rehearsals before school starts in the fall and will have to pile on winter coats and scarves during early winter performances. By doing so, your child is taught the importance of commitment, hard-work and perseverance. Commitment helps individuals stick to their goals despite the good times, and the bad. By learning commitment in the marching band, your child will learn to successfully achieve and maintain goals despite any hurdles that may come up along the way. Even when the going gets tough, marching band members learn to encourage one another to keep going. This endurance and commitment **can be translated** to school projects, employee groups and interpersonal relationships.
- **Time management.** Time-management is important for prioritizing tasks and accurately judging the amount of time needed to complete them. And, any marching band member can agree that being part of a marching band can be a huge time commitment. Between two-hour rehearsals two to three days a week and performing at football games, high school exhibitions and competitions, finding the time for homework, after-school jobs and other activities can be difficult. When your child must juggle a busy schedule and various activities, time-management will be vital to tackling each one. This ability is important for your child to learn to prioritize their time and manage their own schedules. By learning to manage their time effectively, child's focus and productivity will improve over the long-term. As a member of the marching band, your child will quickly learn how to manage their time.
- **Fun.** As students make new friends, learn new skills, find a sense of belonging, & learn the value of hard work---they enjoy spending time achieving & improving with their friends.