

## **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 Wind Symphony, Symphonic, Concert, Jazz and Percussion classes.

**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.

**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.

**9<sup>th</sup> Grade students will be accepted on a limited basis. How is this determined?** 9<sup>th</sup> grade students will audition to Mr. Arnold or Mr. Bateman. If they are in their top band they are eligible for Marching Band. Others will need to perform 6 scales. All 9<sup>th</sup> grade students will be doubled on drill spots to provide alternate positions. They will be given the parade music and asked to perform it at an acceptable level. We welcome 9<sup>th</sup> grade students into marching band if their ability and desire prove that they are capable of performing at this level. If not, we encourage them to wait another year until their ability level matures--allowing them to have a more positive and successful experience.

**What is the time commitment?** A complete calendar can be viewed on the band web-site. [www.afbands.org](http://www.afbands.org) Attendance at rehearsals is crucial to our success and any absences must have prior approval. Time commitment is similar to involvement on any major sports team. Color Guard and Percussion will have additional practices.

**What are the camps that are absolutely essential to attend?** Band Camp June 21-25 is crucial and should be attended if at all possible. Band Camp on August 9-12 is non-negotiable concerning attendance. If a student is going to be in the AF Marching Band these camps are essential. All other summer practices are excusable for youth camps, trips etc. but an excuse form must be submitted two weeks in advance of any absence.

**What do we do about family summer vacations and scout/girls camps?** We encourage students to try to schedule activities around the band schedule but we realize conflicts will occur. The sectionals every Monday morning and Thursday evenings are crucial but they are excusable if conflicts occur. The only summer activities that are absolutely mandatory are the band camps during August.

**What is the total cost of marching band?** The basic marching band cost is \$525. The tour to St George this fall is estimated to be an additional \$200. New students will need to purchase marching shoes for appx. \$30. Replacement gloves are \$2. (the first pair is given with the uniform) Most students will also want an optional band jacket that sells for appx. \$50. The school will charge a \$50 participation fee to help cover the cost of transportation. This will need to be paid at registration.

**Are there fund raising opportunities to help defray these costs?** This summer we will be selling tickets to the Steel Days Breakfast and again, 100% of the ticket will be credited to your students account. In June the band will hold its annual Band Yard Sale at Robinson Park. Many students, in the past, have paid off their entire fees with these fund raising projects.

**What are the additional costs?** New students will be required to obtain white oxford marching shoes at an approximate cost of \$35 for a new pair. Replacement gloves can be purchased for \$10.

Optional Expenses:

- \$70 Band Jacket
- \$15 UMEA MB Camp May 30 (8am -5pm)(Includes Lunch and a T-shirt)
- \$50 Dr Tim Leadership camp June 30 (8am – 4pm)
- \$15 Seven Peaks Band party June 29 (10am-5pm)
- \$20 Corps Encore July 8 (2pm-11pm) Drum Corps show in Ogden
- \$25 Band Video – A double video of the entire band season available in May

All these items can be purchased through the boosters. The only other cost would be that of frequently cleaning the uniform that is issued to the student.

**Can a student receive P.E. credit for marching band?** YES!!! Marching band will receive .25 PE credits for summer and .25 PE credits for fall marching band for a total of .50 credits.

**What will take place at band camp?** This period of time is a concentrated 4 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. On July 18th there is a camp held at American Fork H.S. conducted by a national leadership group. The famous Dr. Tim will conduct a one day workshop on leadership techniques and strategies for various life skills. It is a fabulous workshop and is highly recommended for anyone to attend. The cost is \$70. 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 dry cleaned only! A detailed uniform care instruction sheet is included in this handbook.

**How often should the uniforms be cleaned?** Obviously, they should be cleaned any time they have been soiled. It will not be necessary to clean them quite as often if you take good care of them. Generally they should be dry cleaned 2 or 3 times during the season.

**What should be worn under my band uniform?** You should wear a white T-shirt, possibly the band T-shirt and light-weight 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.

**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.

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