

What to Expect for the 2019 Marching Band Season

The Martin Clippers Marching Band

OVERVIEW

Whether you're the parent of a first-time high school band student or a seasoned veteran of the program, every parent (and their students) needs to know what to expect for the upcoming year. This packet is given to help give you a better understanding of how the Martin Clippers Marching Band (MCMB) functions and how you can support both your student(s) and the band program.

Marching Band: the Basics

Participation:

All band students in 9th through 12th grade are required to participate in marching band.

Season Length:

Generally, the marching band season officially starts in August with band camp and concludes in late October or early November (dependent on football season). Additional marching band activities outside of this window consist of the community's Memorial Day Parade (May) and summer music rehearsals (June and July).

This Packet's Goals

- Performances, Competitions, and Activities:
- Financial Commitment
- Band Camp
- After School Practices
- Student Leadership
- Uniforms

PARTICIPATION

While being a part of a marching band is an awesome experience for students, know that signed up for band is a commitment with responsibilities and accountability attached. Rehearsals, certain meetings, band camp, performances, and several other events are required for students (and in many cases, parents) to be present for.

ABSENCES, TARDIES, and CONFLICTS

It is paramount that all marching band students and their parents make the best effort to be at all rehearsals, performances, and other events. Daily rehearsals during the school day and evening rehearsals on Monday and Thursday nights are EXPECTED and REQUIRED. Evening rehearsals will begin at 6:00pm in the band room and wrap up at 8:30pm on the practice field.

The absence form found near the end of this packet can be used for informing form must be completed and turned in one week in advance of any anticipated absence by a band student (Excluding extreme emergencies).

For performances, students are REQUIRED and EXPECTED to report at the call-times given as the season progresses.

MARCHING BAND OFF-CAMPUS EVENTS

It is a normal occurrence for the marching band to go off-site for its events and performances. A travel waiver will be due by the start a band camp for these.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The total cost for band camp is \$150, which goes towards reserving SON-Life Camp, food, the instructors, and activities. This amount can either be paid in one full payment or through a simple payment plan.

Registration payment plan

Deposit (\$25) due 5/7, non-refundable - *deposit can also be paid at parent info mtg.*

Scheduled payments:

May 21- \$50 June 11 - \$50 August 9 - \$25

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

A key component of our band program is the leadership and camaraderie of our band students. Prior to the marching band season, section leaders and a drum major are selected in order to raise the standard of the band and increase the accountability and productivity of all band members. This also supports students who are new to marching band by giving them fellow students to look up to and learn from.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP AUDITIONS

The student leadership selection process officially begins Wednesday, May 8. Audition materials, information, and expectations are given to student at this time, with auditions taking place May 20-24.

BAND BUDDIES

New for this year, each first year marcher will be assigned a Band Buddy to help support them as they learn the ropes of Marching Band. Buddies will be assigned in July when the Marching Band roster is finalized.

UNIFORMS

CONTRACT and ORDER FORM(S)

Band students are expected to have certain uniform items in order to participate in marching band. To ensure the delivery of required items to the school, order form deadlines **MUST** be adhered to.

Uniform items that parents and students are expected to purchase:

- Drillmaster shoes
- Marching gloves
- Colorguard shoes (as applicable)
- Colorguard gloves (as applicable)

Uniform items provided by the school:

- Bibbers (overall-style pants)
- Jackets
- Shako hats
- Plumes
- Raincoats
- Garment bags

Some used shoes are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. These will be sold be condition. Please ask either Mr. Wimbush or the Band Boosters for more information.

FITTINGS

In order to have uniforms alterations finished in time for the first performance of the year, all students must attend the summer rehearsals where members of the Band Boosters will be helping student try on uniforms.

TIPS FROM VETERAN BAND PARENTS

- Your students will complain, don't pick them up after day 1 (PLEASE pick them up Friday)
- If you want to see your kids during camp, VOLUNTEER!!!
 - Rest time & free time chaperones
 - Cabin chaperones
 - Food donations
 - HEALTHY snacks
 - Trailer-hauling help
 - Whole season
- Pack extra clothes & deodorant
- **TELL YOUR CHILD TO SHOWER DAILY!!! - For the courtesy of your cabin mates and parent volunteers, director, and instructors!**
- Band camp is not easy, it will push your student. Please be supportive, encouraging, but also be firm about their commitment.
- This event takes a lot of time, effort, and money from the instructors, boosters, and parent volunteer. We cannot stress enough that you need to talk to your student about taking this seriously.
- Check base with your student on being prepared for rehearsals. They MUST practice regularly.
- Evening rehearsals: students being on time, prepared, respectful, and focused will ensure that students get out on time. If your students complain about this, that's the perfect time to discuss this topic with them :)
 - Some rehearsals will go over! Be prepared for this, as students being irresponsible delays this process.
- Events:
 - Not showing up for competitions and other performances greatly hinders our band's overall performance level, we must have
 - Performances count as EXAMS and will be graded accordingly
- Personal life interfering with band
 - Dating, personal offenses, etc. cannot create problems for band-related activities. PDA, fighting, etc. is not tolerated during band activities.
- We are being hosted by the camp. If we damage camp property, we are liable.

COMMUNICATION METHODS & EXPECTATIONS

Communication is key for any successful band program. The Martin Public Schools Band Program has 3 primary forms of communication:

1. Face-to-face meetings and flyer handouts
2. Email messages
3. Martin Band Website notifications
 - a. Visit our Band Page: <http://mrwimbushmusic.weebly.com/martin-bands.html> to sign-up for notifications.

COMMUNICATION FOR ABSENCES & CONFLICTS

Please use the absence form near the end of this packet to submit absences. Please note that these must be made a week in advance for rehearsals, and two weeks in advance for performances.

REQUIRED FORMS & DEADLINES

There are a variety of forms that every parent and student must use as a part of participation in the music program at Martin Public Schools. For Marching Band, the following forms are needed:

- MB Student Handbook, with last page (Signature Page) signed and turned in.
- MB Parent Packet
- MB Registration & Payment Forms
- Travel Release/Field Trip Form
- Medical Form

DEADLINES

In order to keep the band program running smoothly, it is crucial for all parents and students to be timely in turning in forms and money according to the listed deadlines. Refusal to adhere to deadlines will result in late fees and can even prohibit a student from being in the band program. Please see Mr. Wimbush if you have questions regarding financial deadlines. Here are some of the main deadline parents and students should be aware of:

If a student quits during band camp, money will not be refunded.

No payment by deadline, no participation in marching band. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Mr. Wimbush.

Monday, June 3	Marching Band Student Handbook Signature Page Deadline
Friday, August 9	Medical Form & Travel Release/Field Trip Form Deadline
	Uniform Fittings Deadline (alterations fee due)
	Band Camp Registration Fee Deadline
Friday, October 25	Uniform Cleaning fee deadline

PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES & ETIQUETTE

It is the responsibility of every parent and guardian to see that the policies outlined in the HANDBOOK are followed and that the form in the back is signed and returned. This states that you UNDERSTAND the policies as set within, and that any questions are to be addressed with the band director by making an appointment. Each parent IS responsible for the attendance of their child at all band functions. It is the responsibility of each parent to see that their child practices his / her instrument daily. The hands of the directors are tied without the help of parents.

HOW PARENTS CAN HELP

When a "band question" arises, it is important that you get factual information before discussing it with others. We do more harm to ourselves, the band family, when we talk about things that contain one or more "falsehoods" but consider them facts. If questions arise, it is important to remember this axiom: If it is a performance issue or anything dealing with the band proper, contact Mr. Wimbush. If it is a fundraising question or anything dealing with parent volunteer topics, talk with the Booster Board President. Volunteer! Get to know your child's friends.

Other things parents can do to help:

- Show an interest in the music study of your child.
- Take woodwind instruments to the shop once a year for maintenance.
- Find a quiet place where he/she can practice without interruption.
- Stay current on your "fair share."
- Help the student keep a DAILY RECORD of practicing.
- Come up with a reward system for DAILY practice.
- Keep the instrument in good repair and keep at least three reeds in the case; purchase a metronome and tuner (physical or app)
- Be extra-careful with school-owned instruments. Repair costs are high!
- Teach your child to be prepared and on time to each rehearsal or lesson. Provide private instruction.
- Make faithful attendance at all band activities important.
- Buy your child a personal planner for marking important dates.
- Keep the Handbook in a safe place and refer to it often.
- Notify the directors if the student is to be absent for rehearsals or lessons. If a student is absent, make sure that their folder gets to school (if they share it with someone).
- Visit after school rehearsals occasionally.
- Attend booster meetings, concerts, games, and contests.
- Turn in fundraising money on time.
- Ask your student when they last gave their instrument a good polish and/or cleaning.
- Be timely.
- Pick up or arrange for your child to be picked up within 15 minutes of the end of rehearsal.

Students' Responsibility to the Band

As members of this organization, you have a great deal of responsibility. It is essential to any program that if certain expectations are to be met that they coordinate with the privileges, rewards, and duties of the band program.

TO OURSELVES

YOU have the primary responsibility of developing your own abilities. The benefits of a good instrument and private instruction can never be underestimated. What you put into it is what you will get out of it. The director is ALWAYS available for your guidance and encouragement – just ask!

TO THE SCHOOL

The Martin Public School District provides us with the resources for rehearsals, performances, and some equipment. The Band Booster Club also provides a support network, both financially and philosophically. We have the responsibility to provide the best possible service to our community.

TO MUSIC

Music has always been a part of our culture. We must take what we have and use it for the betterment of that culture. No one expects virtuoso musicians, only your very best! The great composer Gustav Mahler once said that only 10% of a piece of music is on the page. If that is the case, then we as musicians have the duty of creating and producing the other 90%. The joy of music is not in everything that is apparent. It must be discovered and created.

TO EACH OTHER

We must always do what is best for the WELFARE of the group. There can be no selfish acts solely for the benefit of the individual, but for all. Respect each other. If there are conflicts, find a way to resolve them. Never insult another band member's integrity. The word "band" means that we are banded together and that there is no separation or discourse. Sometimes, *the needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few.*

BAND CAMP & SUMMER REHEARSALS

The marching season begins with rehearsals and band camp throughout the summer. These are put in place in order to prepare students for a successful competition and football game experience in the fall. It is important to understand what the expectations are for these in order to properly make arrangements for student transportation.

BAND CAMP

Every year, the marching band takes one week in August for band camp. The purpose of this required event is to jumpstart the season and provide dedicated, focused time to develop, strengthen, and condition students for the marching season and learn the bulk of the show. The following page has a sample schedule of what band camp consists of.

SUMMER REHEARSALS & PRE-CAMP

In addition to band camp, rehearsals will be held Monday evenings during summer break. 6:00-8:30pm starting on July 8. There will be a total of 6 summer evening rehearsals. Every student is expected to attend 5 of these 6, as to accommodate for family vacations and other camps. Here are the schedule summer rehearsals:

- Monday, July 8
- Monday, July 15
- Monday, July 22
- Monday, July 29
- Monday, August 5
- Monday, August 19

The two week days preceding band camp are also reserved for Pre-Camp, which provides an easy transition into the rigors of the full-week, full-day activities of band camp. ALL BAND MEMBERS are expected and required to attend these days. Currently, these will held at Martin High School at the following times:

- Thursday, August 8, 9am-1pm
- Friday, August 9, 9am-3pm (*lunch provided*)

DAILY SCHEDULE (subject to change)

Monday August 12, 2019

9:00am-9:30am	Welcome Meeting at Martin Band Room
9:30am-10:30am	Load Equipment into Trailer
10:30am-11:00am	Travel to SON-Life Camp
11:00am-12:00pm	Check-in/Settle into Cabins
12:00pm-12:45pm	Bagged Lunches (bring your own) - <i>instructors meeting</i>
1:00pm-2:00pm	Sectionals
2:15pm-3:30pm	Marching Rehearsal
3:30pm-3:45pm	Break
3:45pm-5:00pm	Music Rehearsal
5:00pm-5:45pm	Dinner
6:00pm-8:00pm	Marching/Music rehearsal
8:15pm-9:15pm	Group Activity
9:30pm-10:00pm	Prepare for bed/relaxation time (MUST BE IN CABIN)
10:00pm	Taps/Lights out - <i>instructors meeting</i>

Tuesday-Thursday August 13-15, 2018

8:00am-8:30am	Breakfast
8:45am-10:30am	Marching rehearsal
10:30am-10:45am	Break
10:45am-12:00pm	Marching rehearsal
12:00pm-12:30pm	Lunch
12:45pm-1:15pm	Mandatory rest (MUST BE IN CABIN)
1:30pm-2:45pm	Sectionals
2:45pm-3:30pm	Music Rehearsal (without Drumline & Colorguard)
3:45pm-4:45pm	Leisure time
5:00pm-5:45pm	Dinner
6:00pm-8:30pm	Marching/Music rehearsal
8:45pm-9:30pm	Group Activity
9:45pm-10:00pm	Prepare for bed/relaxation time
10:00pm	In cabins, lights out - <i>instructors meeting</i>

Friday August 16, 2019

8:00am-8:30am	Breakfast
8:45am-10:30am	Marching rehearsal
10:30am-10:45am	Break
10:45am-12:00pm	Marching rehearsal
12:00pm-12:30pm	Lunch
12:30pm-1:15pm	Pack up, clean up, load up
1:15pm-1:45pm	Travel back to Martin
2:00pm-3:00pm	Warm-up/Music Rehearsal (field performance at 3:30pm)

2019 SEASON SCHEDULE (tentative)

Date	Time	Event
Monday, May 27	10am-12:30pm	Memorial Day Parade
Mondays, July 8-Aug 5	6:00pm-8:30pm	MB Summer Rehearsals
Thursday, August 8	9:00am-1:00pm	Pre-Camp Day 1
Friday, August 9	9:00am-3:00pm	Pre-Camp Day 2
Mon-Fri, August 12-16	All-Day	BAND CAMP
Monday, August 19	6:00pm-8:30pm	MB Evening Rehearsal
Monday, August 26	6:00pm-8:30pm	MB Evening Rehearsal
Tuesday, August 27	8:00-11:00am	First Day of School
Thursday, August 29	5:00pm	Home Football Game
Friday, September 6	5:00pm	Home Football Game
Friday, September 20	5:00pm	Home Football Game
Saturday, September 28	Afternoon	Otsego Invitational
Friday, October 11	5:00pm	Home Football Game
Saturday, October 12	Afternoon	Grandville Invitational
Friday, October 18	5:00pm	Home Football Game
Friday, November 2	5:00pm	Home Football Game (Playoffs)

Other events will be added as more information and schedules are determined.

Fall Evening Rehearsals

Mondays & Thursdays, 6:00pm-8:30pm These begin 9/5 and continue until end of season

Absence Form

This form must be completed and turned in **one week in advance** of any anticipated absence by a band student (Excluding extreme emergencies) for rehearsals. For performances, this must be submitted **two weeks in advance**.

Student Name _____ **Today's date** _____

Date of anticipated Absence _____

Reason for absence: Please be specific! The policy is quite simple – if the school will excuse it, we will excuse it. If the school will not, we will not. "Important matters" or "family matters" are not considered excusable by the school.

Illness policy: vomiting, fever, diarrhea, and other illnesses that require a student not be at school are excused absences, other illnesses require doctor's note.

Martin High School will excuse for Death in the Family, Religious Holiday, and Illness with a Doctor's Excuse (or those listed in the student handbook). The doctor's excuse must be submitted with the school and a copy placed on file with the directors.

Parent Signature _____ **Student Signature** _____

All forms must be submitted to the directors and will remain on file in the band office for a period of a year.

Director Signature _____ **Date** _____