

**2019-2020 Mira Costa Bands  
FAQ: Incoming 9th Grade Families**

*NOTE: Content subject to change. Go to [www.miracostabands.com](http://www.miracostabands.com) for the most up-to-date information.*

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**When will assessments be held for placement in 2019-2020 bands for Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble, Wind Symphony, and Jazz 1?**

- For concert ensembles and Jazz 1, assessment for the incoming 9th graders from MBMS will be held in class during the week of June 3rd.
- New winds and the rhythm section assessment for Jazz 1 will be held after school during the week of June 3rd-most likely the 6th but the date and time will be confirmed at a later date.
- Out-of-district students can email [mchsbanddirector@gmail.com](mailto:mchsbanddirector@gmail.com) to schedule an assessment.
- Please go to [www.miracostabands.com](http://www.miracostabands.com) under the *Info for Incoming 9th Grade Families 2019-2020* tab for an additional information.
- Assessments are NOT Auditions: Mr. Carlson wants to ensure that every musician is placed in the band that is the best fit to ensure that the development level and challenges allow the student to thrive.

**When will the assessment music be available?**

Assessment music will be available for download from the MC bands website ([www.miracostabands.com](http://www.miracostabands.com)) under the *Placement Assessments 2019-2020* tab in early May.

**When will the student be notified of the concert ensemble placement?**

An email will be sent to the parents by the end of June from the Band Director with the placement information. The band director also provides the placement information to the administrator for the student class schedule.

**Who can join marching band and colorguard?**

Students who join MCHS marching band are required to be in one of the three concert ensembles and/or Jazz 1. Marching band and colorguard is NOT a cut activity. However, after the Spring Training Clinics in May, there will be an assessment on May 18th from 9AM-4PM for all students who are interested in joining marching band and colorguard.

**What are some of the benefits of Marching Band?**

One of the things the *marching band students* talk about is how it engages their whole self – physically, intellectually, and emotionally. This shared experience allows the marching band students to form a strong bond with each other. *Marching band also gives students an outlet: social and creative; which is critical as they go through the pressures of high school.*

The **MANDATORY** Fall Training Camp (Date TBA after the district calendar becomes available, but typically two weeks prior to the school starts) gives incoming freshman an opportunity to be familiar with the Costa campus and with the students in their section, easing the transition to *high school*. Also, students can use marching band credit towards PE requirement in their freshman and sophomore years.

*Marching band can provide hands-on leadership experience, since each section is led by a Section Leader. Also, four years of marching band shows the student's ability to commit to an extracurricular activity and looks great on the student's college application!*

**How much time does Marching Band take?**

The Marching Band physical demands and time commitment are similar to an athletic team. The difference is that everyone is a Varsity player. Everyone is on the field. Everyone has their own unique role and responsibilities on the field show.

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We begin our freshman orientation and training for marching band and colorguard in May. These sessions are once a week for 2 hours after school. The winds and colorguard sessions are held at MBMS and the percussion sessions are held at MCHS.

The main Marching Band season is football season *which runs from August through November*. The band practices 3 days after school plus 2 weekend rehearsals, attends all home games (*typically 3-6*), 1-3 away games, and 3-5 all-day *field tournaments*. The football season may continue with playoffs, and the band *may attend* some of these games.

The schedule for 2019-2020 hasn't been finalized yet, but the following is an example of a *light* and heavy practice week in the Fall:

Light- week without a football game or a tournament

Day	Time	Group
Monday	3:15-5:15PM 2:00-4:30PM 3:30-6:30PM	Winds Colorguard Percussion
Tuesday	5:30-8:30PM	ALL
Thursday	3:15-5:15PM	ALL

Heavy\*- week with a football game and a tournament or weekend rehearsal

Day	Time	Group
Monday	3:15 – 5:15 PM 2:00-4:30PM 3:30-6:30PM	Winds Colorguard Percussion
Tuesday	5:30-8:30PM	ALL
Thursday	3:15 – 5:15 PM	ALL
Friday: Home Game	5:30 – 10:00 PM	ALL
Saturday: Field Show (or Rehearsation)	11:00 AM – 11:00 PM (or 9AM-4PM)	ALL

\* Percussion, Drum Line and Colorguard have a modified schedule.

After November, marching band activity slows down significantly. Our marching band participates in a parade at Disneyland in January. There are a couple of afternoons of rehearsal leading up to this, and a fun day at Disneyland. The marching band also participates in community events including opening the Hometown Fair, the Manhattan Village Santa Parade, Manhattan Beach Fireworks and the Little League Parade.

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**Will spending so much time in Marching Band impact my student's academics?**

Marching Band is a collaborative effort that demands a lot of time during the season and students do need to manage their time. Students in Marching Band learn focus techniques and time management skills that serve them well in their academic careers. We are proud to report that 70% of Marching Band students are on the Honor Roll with a GPA of 3.5 or higher, and 30% of junior and seniors are qualified to be National Honor Society members.

**When does Marching Band for the 2019-2020 school year begin?**

Please go to [www.miracostabands.com](http://www.miracostabands.com) and look under the *Info for Incoming 9th Grade Families 2019-2020* tab for key program dates.

**How is the MCHS Bands Program funded?**

The school district pays for the salary of the music director and instrumental instructional assistant. Expenses such as music, instructors, clinicians, coaches, competition entry fees, large instruments, equipment, supplies, marching band uniforms, transportation, and much more are funded by the Mira Costa HS Band Boosters.

**As a parent of a Band member, how can I support Bands at MCHS?**

Several years ago, as a response to parents' feedback, the Mira Costa HS Band Boosters moved to a fundraising strategy that includes asking band families to donate a "fair share" donation and minimizing fundraising events over the course of the year. The "fair share" donation is based on your student's choice of band participation (i.e. concert ensemble and/or marching band) and his/her instrument (e.g., using the school instrument).

In addition to financial support, it takes a small army of volunteers to help with the Band program. We need the same level of parent volunteers at concerts and festivals as in the middle school. Band provides parents with an opportunity to be involved in your student's high school experience in a meaningful way. If your student is marching, there are lots of new ways that you can help. Home game support includes traffic control, uniforms, pit crew, candy sales, and more. Tournament support includes pit crew, chaperoning, uniforms. In 2018-2019 season, over 3,000 volunteer hours were invested by an army of marching band parents! These parents work hard and have a lot of fun. All parents are welcome to join this group of amazing parent volunteers!