

# MURRIETA MESA HS

Instrumental Music Department



## Questions & Answers

Information Packet for 8<sup>th</sup> Graders

# MARCHING BAND

Are you an 8th grader trying to decide which path you will take in high school?

Are you a parent of an 8th grader that wants your child to have a place of belonging and success at Murrieta Mesa?

There is no better place to feel like part of a family, with unprecedented success in performance and academics, all while having the time of your life, than in the Murrieta Mesa HS Marching Band!

## MYTHS & MISCONCEPTIONS

### OF MARCHING BAND

*The MMHS Band practices too much and I won't have enough time...*

The MMHS Band schedule is like other sports and club activities on campus. Generally, we limit after school rehearsals to just 8-hours a week.

*I have AP/Dual Enrollment classes. Band is not going to give me enough time...*

Almost every upperclassman in the MMHS Band is enrolled in at least one Advanced Placement or Dual Enrollment class. Some of our students even take up to six AP and Dual Enrollment classes while also being a member of the marching band. The marching band schedule allows for students to maintain the highest academic standing. Many of our students find themselves ranked toward the top of their class. One of the advantages of being in the program is that you have access to other band students who can tutor you in all academic subjects.

*Marching band takes up every weekend in the fall...*

This is not true. We limit Saturday rehearsals to just 1 or 2 for the entire semester. We limit our Friday rehearsals to just 3 or 4 for the entire semester. We do 4 to 5 competitions on Saturdays from early October to late November. There are also approximately 6 Friday night home football games that all members are required to attend.

*I want to join other clubs/organizations/athletics so I can't do band...*

We have students in almost every sport, club, and activity on campus. That doesn't mean we don't occasionally encounter an inoperable conflict. The important thing is to communicate with us so we can help find a solution.

*Marching band is WAY too hard. There is no way I can do it..*

Just like anything that is new to you, marching band gets easier as you gain more experience. The staff, student leaders, and veteran members are here to help you. Every year we have a huge number of freshmen join the band and every year we have been great! You can do it!

## **THE BENEFITS OF MARCHING BAND**

### *Physical Health*

The marching band is a physical activity that allows every student the opportunity to become physically fit while also teaching lifelong proactive health strategies.

### *Mental Health*

Marching band is a positive and uplifting activity that encourages the growth of every student's self-esteem, self-confidence, and self-worth. It allows students to feel part of something bigger than themselves and contribute to a team. It allows for the opportunity to meet new people, make new friends, and build positive relationships with teachers and other adult mentors.

### *Academic Success*

The MMHS Band Director has a high academic expectations and standards for his students. Mr. Greenberg conducts regular grade checks and help students develop strategies that will help lead to their success.

### *Social Health*

Students develop relationships, meet other students they can recognize in their core classes, and are regularly put in positions where they must communicate and advocate for themselves. These are important life skills that our program helps students to develop.

# FAQ

*Are freshmen required to be in marching band?*

Yes. The marching band experience is not only an important part of the overall high school experience, but also enhances music instruction and helps music students connect with our program's culture.

*Can I get PE credit for marching band?*

All 9th graders must take PE 9 or ROTC to fulfill their freshman year PE requirement. After your freshmen year, students will receive PE credit for each semester of participation in Marching Band and therefore will not have to enroll in PE. This allows students to take an extra elective class that they want to take. It is just one of the many benefits to being a member of the marching band.

*Band is too expensive; we can't afford it...*

Our program is mostly funded through donations by participating families and fundraising opportunities our booster club provides. No child should choose to not be a part of band due to a lack of finances. We ALWAYS find a way to help families make it work.

*I'm an oboe/bassoon player. What instrument should I play for marching band?*

All double reed students get to pick what instrument they want to play during marching season. Front Ensemble Percussion is a common choice. However, we ask that you reach out to us or talk with your middle school director for advice.

*Will I be a participating member regardless of my ability level?*

Yes. Everyone participates

*I play French horn/mellophone, trombone, euphonium, or tuba and I don't own a marching instrument...*

Don't worry! We rent all those instruments to you at the start of the summer so you can begin practicing on those new instruments. If anyone needs to rent any instrument, we have plenty available. Contact Mr. greenberg for details: [dgreenberg@murrieta.k12.ca.us](mailto:dgreenberg@murrieta.k12.ca.us)

# PERCUSSION

## MARCHING BAND & INDOOR: A YEAR-ROUND SUBSET

SUMMER & FALL (OUTDOOR): Percussion is part of the marching band. Please see the marching band description page.

WINTER & SPRING (INDOOR): Our Indoor Percussion Ensemble is a subset of the music program and has its own competitive performance schedule.

All students in the marching percussion section participate in one of two areas:

BATTERY - Instruments that are worn on the body: Snare, Tenors, and Bass. Selection is by audition and the audition process includes playing as well as movement/marching.

FRONT ENSEMBLE - Also called “The Pit” (termed from an orchestra pit), are instruments that are stationary: Marimba, Vibraphone, Xylophone, Synthesizer (Piano), Timpani, Glockenspiel, Crotales, etc.

Membership for both battery and front ensemble is earned through an annual audition during late April/early May. Positions are held for a full year. Any changing of positions midyear will be at the discretion of the percussion staff. There are no “challenges” or re-auditions.

CONCERT BAND PERCUSSION: All percussionists must be enrolled in a concert band class.

# COLOR GUARD

## MARCHING BAND & INDOOR: A YEAR-ROUND SUBSET

SUMMER & FALL (OUTDOOR): The color guard is part of the marching band. Please see the marching band description page.

WINTER & SPRING (INDOOR): We typically have three separate indoor color guards (Varsity, JV, & Frosh/Soph) that compete in local and national level competitions. Our indoor color guards are a subset of the music program and have their own competitive performance schedule. Visit: [vistamurrietasapphires.org](http://vistamurrietasapphires.org)

Membership is earned through an annual audition during late April/early May. Positions are held for a full year. Any changing of positions midyear will be at the discretion of the color guard staff.

If you have any questions, please contact our color guard director:  
Rebecca Greenberg – [rgreenberg81@gmail.com](mailto:rgreenberg81@gmail.com)

# TENTATIVE 2022 CALENDAR

## MARCHING BAND

### FEBRUARY

Parent information meeting  
Course selection for all 8<sup>th</sup> graders (Incoming Freshmen)

APRIL 28 – Kick off Meeting

### SUMMER

June 6 – Instrument Check-out, 10am-1pm

June 7-8 - Camp

July 25-30 - BAND CAMP

August 2 - First Tuesday Night Practice – PARENT PREVIEW NIGHT

August 10 FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

### FIRST SEMESTER WEEKLY ROUTINE\*

Tuesday 5pm-9pm

Thursday 5pm-9pm

*\* Our weekly routine is subject to change due to the newly state-implemented late-start schedule for all high schools for the 2022-2023 school year. Also, certain weeks can be affected by holidays, football game anomalies, etc. Once we have all the information on our end, we will release an accurate schedule giving you plenty of time plan for these minor shifts in routine.*

# CONCERT BAND

THERE ARE 2 CONCERT ENSEMBLES ORGANIZED BY ABILITY LEVEL

WIND ENSEMBLE I - This is our top ensemble and is comprised of students with the highest musical ability in the organization. Wind Ensemble I is dedicated to the performance of the finest wind literature, without regard to era or difficulty. Membership in this ensemble is determined by audition.

CONCERT BAND - Comprised of mostly freshmen and sophomores, this ensemble explores traditional band literature, transcriptions, and contemporary works with a focus on skill development.

## YEARLY PERFORMANCES

FALL CONCERT - This is our first concert of the year and is held in early to mid October where we feature all concert ensembles. This concert is held in the MMHS George Gershwin Performing Arts Center.

WINTER CONCERT - Features all performing ensembles performing holiday and seasonal music. This concert is in the MMHS George Gershwin Performing Arts Center in December.

SOLO AND SMALL ENSEMBLE FESTIVAL - This is a judged festival experience for students performing a solo or chamber music as a member of a small ensemble. Members can participate in this festival. This festival is held at VMHS, usually at the end of January or beginning of February.

FESTIVAL AWARDS CONCERT - Features all performing groups in preparation for festival. This concert is held at MMHS George Gershwin Performing Arts Center and is held at the end of February or early March.

CONCERT BAND FESTIVAL - This is a judged festival experience featuring all concert groups. This festival is held at VMHS, usually in mid-March.

GREEN TEAM DISTRICT CONCERT - This concert is held in the MMHS gym and typically features Wind Ensemble I along with all the "Green Team" elementary and middle school band programs. This concert is usually in April.

SPRING CONCERT - This is our final concert of the year and is held in mid or late May where we feature all performing ensembles. This concert is held in the MMHS George Gershwin Performing Arts Center.