



Cal High Marching Band Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Welcome to Cal High's award winning Marching Band and Color Guard!

What is Marching Band and who can join?

Marching Band is made up of three groups: Marching Band (MB), Color Guard (CG) and Drum Line (DL).

Any Cal High student can join Marching Band, Color Guard, or Drum Line (the only one to require an audition). There are no "cuts" and everyone participates at every event! The season kicks off with our Summer Camp in late July/August with the season continuing through late November. Band Camp is a great way to see if MB is a good fit. Band Camp is provided at no cost! Most students love camp and decide to add Marching Band to their schedule.

What are the benefits of Marching Band and Band Camp?

Marching Band is an active, competitive and inclusive community. When your student arrives on the first day of school, they are already part of a well-respected group and have a group of friends from all grade levels. It also teaches students numerous skills including time management, responsibility, teamwork, and the importance of commitment. Many of these skills carry over into a student's academic life, too. It's an amazing way to start off the year!

Marching Band participants earn one semester of Fine Arts credit in 9th grade and can choose between Fine Arts or PE credits in 10th-12th grade. It looks great on college applications too!

How does Marching Band work?

Marching Band rehearsals are after school on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays. The MB competes in 3-5 competitions in Northern California, at home football games, and various other events throughout the year.

There are several components to Marching Band:

- ★ Band Camp (July-August)
- ★ Rehearsals (August-November)
- ★ Football Games (September-November)
- ★ CHS pep rallies (all year)
- ★ Competitions (October-November)
- ★ Other Events (all year)

When are rehearsals?

Here's a tentative rehearsal schedule.

- ★ Mondays 6:00pm - 9:00pm
- ★ Wednesdays 6:00pm - 9:00pm
- ★ Saturdays 8:00am - 3:30pm

When does the Marching Band perform?

- ★ Competitions
 - 3-5 competitions located around Northern California
 - Competitions are held on Saturdays throughout the fall where we compete against other high school bands
- ★ Home Football Games
 - 5-7 home football games on Friday nights
 - MB generally performs as a Pep Band in the stands during the game. As the season progresses, MB performs their show during half time
 - MB has a roped off section in the stands and band parents can sit together near the band and have a great opportunity to get to know each other
- ★ Pep Rallies
 - MB performs at rallies during the school day and show off their school spirit
- ★ Camp BBQ

- MB will showcase their talents at the end of band camp
- Parents get the opportunity to meet other families, enjoy delicious BBQ, learn more about the program and how to volunteer

★ Other Events

- MB participates in school and community events such as the Homecoming Parade, Elementary Halloween Parades, Middle School Showcase, Local Festivals, Back to School Night, Fundraisers and more

Is this a real class? Do the participants get credit?

Marching Band is a graded course, but doesn't meet during the academic day. Participants earn one semester of Fine Arts credit in 9th grade and can choose between Fine Arts and PE credit in 10th-12th. Participation and attendance of rehearsals and activities are factors used to determine grades. (for more information on grading policy, see the online Student Handbook)

What is the parent's role in Marching Band?

Parent participation is an integral part for a successful marching band program.

Fundraising, chaperoning, organizing, cleaning, cooking, driving, uniform fitting and repair, loading and unloading, trailer drivers, field show helpers, the list goes on but there is something for everyone who is willing and able to help. Chaperones and drivers must be cleared through Be a Mentor.

<https://www.srvusd.net/Students-and-Families/Volunteer-Requirements/index.html>

What are specific opportunities parents can help with?

★ Hospitality

- Set up, serve, clean up for dinners (camp and competitions)

★ Football Games

- Bleacher duty: rope off band area, supervise students, clean up
- Water: transport water for the band
- Pit Crew: help transport and set up equipment (if MB/CG perform)

★ Events and Competitions

- Chaperone: ride the bus, supervision at event

- Carpool drivers (local competitions): drop off students
- Pit Crew: transport and set up equipment on the field
- Pit Bosses: load, transport, and unload equipment on U-Haul
- U-Haul Drivers: pick up and return U-haul, drive to and from competition

★ Fundraising

- Join fundraising committee, attend fundraising events
- Donations: time, money, ideas

Can parents and guests come to the competitions?

YES! Not only can you come, you should. It's mind blowing to see all that goes on in the background. It's an awesome opportunity to support your child(ren), get to know other parents and witness our amazingly talented students as well as other high schools. If you are not riding the bus, plan to arrive with enough time to find parking, walk to the stadium, pay admission and find a seat before our band performs.

Admission fees for spectators at competitions can range from \$5 to \$15. Most competitions are a fundraiser for the hosting school, so please support them by purchasing your tickets. Performers and assigned "Pit Crew" do not pay entry fees, but other parent volunteers will need to pay admission fees.

How much does Marching Band cost?

Marching Band does not receive any financial support from the school or district, so all participants are asked to make a financial donation to support our program. The Cal High Instrumental Music (IM) Program is self funded by the family participation donations and fundraising by the Music Boosters, a non profit booster organization dedicated to supporting the Instrumental Program at Cal High.

The annual participation donation request for 2023-2024 is \$900.

Your donation is tax-deductible to the full extent provided by law. CHS Instrumental Music Boosters is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization Tax ID: 68-0077940.

The annual donation covers most of the costs of maintaining our award winning program, and the rest is funded through our fundraising events.

- ★ Coaches and Consultants: 2-3 Marching Band coaches, 2-3 Color Guard coaches, Consultants
- ★ Show Design: music and arrangements
- ★ Drill Writers, Show Choreography
- ★ Music: purchasing, printing, licensing
- ★ Equipment: instrument purchases and repairs, props, flags, sabers, etc
- ★ Uniforms: cleaning, repairs, and replacing of uniforms and shoes, gloves, color guard show outfits
- ★ Competitions: entry fees, transportation, dinners
- ★ U-Haul truck rentals
- ★ Band Camp: 6 days of camp, t-shirt, dinners

All students deserve the opportunity to participate in the Marching Band program regardless of their financial situation. Not donating does not limit student participation, but it does have an impact on the Marching Band program. Any donation amount is encouraged and appreciated.

How do I make my participation donation?

You may make your donation by visiting our website calhighmusic.org or by check payable to Cal High Instrumental Music Boosters. Payment plans are available on Future Fund.

What if I have more questions? If your question was not answered, please email our Music Director at calhighmusic@gmail.com or our Booster President at calhighbandboosterprez@gmail.com