



Frequently Asked Questions

Does everyone have to audition to be in a Concert Band, Jazz Band or Strings class?

Yes. Everyone must meet and play for the directors on an individual basis, in order to be appropriately placed in one of our performing ensembles. The “audition” is low key, and used simply for placement. Are you a total beginner with no experience? Then make an audition appointment so we can talk about it. No experience is necessary to be a music student at MHS, and no student will be turned away from our music program!

What About Color Guard or Marching Band?

Students in Color Guard **do not** have to audition to be in the class. Students who play a woodwind, brass, percussion, or string instrument in the marching band must audition, since they will also be in a concert band or the String Orchestra.

Do you have to take private lessons?

Having private lessons is not a requirement to participate in band or strings. However, having a private teacher is a wise investment for ALL students who study music. Most who qualify to be in our top ensembles, have a private teacher. There is a list of recommended teachers on our website.

Can you just be in jazz band, concert band, or strings? Or do you have to be in Marching Band too?

Being in the Marching Band is NOT a requirement to participate in the music program. However.... Because Marching Band is 7th Period, AND you get PE credit, this opens up room for your elective without having to take summer school.

There are some students that JUST want to be in the jazz band. This is possible, but please keep in mind that the Concert Bands and String Orchestra are the “meat and potatoes” of our music program. Students in these classes become stronger overall musicians, able to play any style or genre well. Being in jazz band only may fit more conveniently in your schedule, but this is not recommended for students who are very serious about improving their overall musicianship. Also, since participation in a jazz band is contingent upon audition, there is a chance that you may not make it into a jazz ensemble, leaving you without a music class.

Note: All students in the Color Guard class, must also be in the Marching Band.

How do I fit my foreign language and a music elective in my schedule during Freshman year?

- Depending upon your future college requirements, you can hold off taking foreign language until your sophomore or junior year
- OR , you can take a summer school class (there are various opportunities locally and online. Look for more info about this in April/May)
- OR take a language course at Moorpark College during the year
- OR, Join Marching Band. Since Marching Band is 7th Period, and you get PE credit for it, this opens up a period.

Speak to your counselor about these options. Where there's a will, there's a way....

Do I have to be in another music class if I do Marching Band?

Yes. All Marching Band members must also be enrolled in one of the following YEAR LONG ELECTIVES: Wind Ensemble, Wind Symphony, String Orchestra, or Color Guard. **Jazz Band does not count for this co-requisite.**

Does it cost money to be in the music program?

There is a donation requested from all members of all classes. The amount varies for each ensemble, or group, and what we collect determines our activities and staff. However, no student shall be turned away from the program for not being able to provide this donation.

Where can I find out more information about the music program?

www.musketeerband.org

How do I sign up?

First, register for the music class that you want to take on registration night. Then, make an audition appointment by following the links on our website (www.musketeerband.org). Look for flyers to come home in April/May regarding our Rookie Picnic, and Rookie Camp. Look for an info packet to come home to you in July. Keep in touch with Ms. Blake, and Mr. Cook with your questions throughout the year, we invite your emails and phone calls.

Can parents get involved with the music program?

Parents are VITAL in this program, and there are a zillion opportunities to help out. Come to a booster meeting, or just email our booster president for more info (see website). Booster Meetings are the 2nd Wednesday of every month until the end of the year. ALL parents are welcome, especially future parents!