

# MCLEAN BANDS 2014-15 SYLLABUS

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## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### Concert Band and Wind Ensemble

The Concert Band is an intermediate level ensemble comprised of students from 9<sup>th</sup> grade through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. This band performs concert literature at the VBODA grade levels 4 and 5. The band rehearses during the embedded period every day during the school day. Rehearsals and performances outside of the regular school day will be required as part of the class as well. This ensemble will perform in all concerts, festivals, and trips throughout the school year. **Participation in marching band for this ensemble is optional, but strongly encouraged.**

### Advanced Band - Percussion Techniques\*\*\*

The most complicated and demanding instrument to play in a concert band is percussion. Percussionists must learn both bass and treble clefs as well as learn techniques to play more than 40 different instruments. Many of these students join the bands at concerts and festivals but rehearse separately to gain experience and expertise on the full array of percussion instruments utilized in the concert band. These students will perform with the Concert Band I and Symphonic Band in concerts. Percussionists will be charged a fee for renting and maintaining the county percussion equipment. Marching Band is required for members of this class. Rehearsals and performances outside of the school day will be required as part of this course. **This is not a beginning class and is only offered to students who have previously played percussion in a school band program or who have studied privately. This is the ONLY percussion class offered at McLean HS.**

### Advanced Band - Symphonic Band\*\*\*

The Symphonic Band is the premiere wind and percussion ensemble at McLean High School. Students are placed in the band by audition. Historically, more than 90% of the members in this band have studied privately for more than a year and have attended summer music camps and clinics. Students in this class are expected to perform in all concerts and contests. These students will also be required to audition for the All-District Band. The symphonic band performs literature at the VBODA grade 6 level. Rehearsals and performances outside of the school day will be required. It is an FCPS policy that all members of the advanced band must participate in marching band. SUMMER MARCHING BEGINS THE WEEK OF AUGUST 7<sup>TH</sup>!

**\*\*\*Fairfax County Public Schools requires that all students participating in Advanced Band classes must be also participate in the marching band as part of their course requirements.**

### Independent Study

Members of the Symphonic Band or Percussion class may elect to take an extra period of band as an independent study class. This class will allow students to gain small group or individualized instruction to further their skills on their instrument. Students wishing to receive credit for this class will be required to present a recital at the end of the school year consisting of 16-20 minutes of music.

### Jazz Ensemble

Students are placed into this group by audition. Students in the class must also be enrolled in either the Symphonic Band or Percussion Techniques. Students must also be enrolled in a Band Class that meets during the school day if they play a Band instrument. This class meets after school hours only. Beginning to advanced jazz ensemble literature and techniques will be explored. There will also be an introduction to improvisation.

### Highlander Marching Band and Color Guard

Members of the Symphonic Band and Percussion are required to participate in the McLean Highlander Marching Band, as per FCPS guidelines. Concert Band members may participate if they would like to. **Members of the marching band are expected to come to the pre-school summer band camp rehearsals** as well as all after school rehearsals, football games, and contests. There is a fee for participation in the marching band. Marching Band Members are expected to attend all camps, rehearsals, and performances. Marching band is the fall activity (fall sport) for all advanced band members – participation in other school sports and activities must occur outside of the marching band rehearsal/performance schedule.

## FCPS GRADING SCALE

A	(93-100) = 4.0	C+	(77-79) = 2.3
A-	(90-92) = 3.7	C	(73-76) = 2.0
B+	(87-89) = 3.3	C-	(70-72) = 1.7
B	(83-86) = 3.0	D+	(67-69) = 1.3
B-	(80-82) = 2.7	D	(64-66) = 1.0
		F	(below 64) = 0.0

## GRADING POLICY AND GUIDELINES

Grades will be computed using a weighted system with standard MHS and FCPS percentages determining letter grades. Final grades will be determined by the average of all four quarters. The final exam counts as a Test or Performance grade included in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter.

### **Grades will be weighted based on the following scale:**

**40%** - Performances and Tests – some of these will be done outside of the school day, or videotaped, or recorded and emailed

**30%** - Quizzes and After School Rehearsal Preparation – written or playing quizzes done during rehearsal on assigned material

**30%** - Rehearsal Techniques – correct and functional equipment, sheet music in class, rehearsal conduct, etc.

**Test Re-Take Guidelines** – ALL tests and quizzes can be taken as many times as needed for a student to achieve the grade they desire. These must be done during the same quarter in which the grade occurred. They will also take place outside of the regular class time. Schedule a time with Mr. Weise and Ms. Denson for re-takes. Highlander Time is also a great time to receive extra help or re-take tests.

### **McLean High School Honor Code –**

As a community, we value honesty, respect and what is fair. We choose honor and integrity in everything we say and do. In cases of Honor Code Violation, FCPS grading and reporting policies will be followed.

### **Make-up Work Policy –**

#### **Excused Absence** (*taken from FCPS Grading and Reporting to Parents, September 2013*)

Students are fully responsible for completing any missed assignments. Each day of absence affords one school day of makeup work opportunity. Students have a maximum of ten days to make up work missed during an excused period of absence.

However, the period of time allowed to make up work may be extended at the discretion of the teacher.

Makeup work for excused absences is graded and recorded in the grade book by teachers without penalty to students. For approved prearranged absence, a student may request assignments in advance of the absence. Teachers will provide regular or alternative assignments in advance of the absence, when feasible. Following any absence, including a prearranged absence, students should make arrangements with individual teachers for makeup work.

#### **Unexcused Absence**

Unexcused absences do not mandate course failure. If students are absent and unexcused, they cannot earn credit for classroom activities or labs missed as a result. Students may choose to make up work following unexcused absences and teachers may help the student and parent or guardian to identify missed work, but teachers are not obligated to provide makeup work. Makeup work is encouraged so that students will profit from future instruction.

Regardless of the type of absence McLean High School expects that ALL students learn and demonstrate mastery on all topics covered.

## DISTRICT ASSESSMENT

District 12 Band Assessment occurs every year during March. This is by far the most important event that we will participate in over the course of the year. This is Virginia's equivalent to our SOL. Our bands will play for a panel of nationally-recognized adjudicators and will be given ratings based on their performance. Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble will perform on Saturday. Please consult the attached calendar and pay careful attention to the date for your Assessment performance. **This event is absolutely required!**

## ATTENDANCE POLICY

The McLean High School Attendance policy will be in effect for absences to all daily classes. Attendance at **ALL** after school rehearsals and performances of the McLean High School Band is required as part of the course.

**STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO NOTIFY THE BAND DIRECTOR IN WRITING FOR ALL ABSENCES.**

APPROPRIATE DOCUMENTATION – NOTE/EMAIL FROM PARENT/GUARDIAN OR DOCTOR - IS DUE THE FIRST SCHOOL DAY FOLLOWING ANY ABSENCE THAT IS NOT PRE-APPROVED.

**EXCUSED ABSENCES:**

- Illness
- Family emergency
- Pre-Approved conflict – submitted in writing and **approved by director**  
(8 weeks in advance for Performance or 1 week in advance for rehearsal)

ALL STUDENTS ARE INTERGRAL MEMBERS OF EACH ENSEMBLE – THE GROUP PERFORMANCE IS REHEARSED AND PREPARED INTRICATELY – PERFORMANCES ARE GREATLY AFFECTED BY THE ABSENCE OF EVEN ONE STUDENT. FOR THIS REASON, EXCUSED PERFORMANCE ABSENCES ARE SELDOM GRANTED.

School Attendance – Students **MUST** be present in school in order to participate in after school activities. We will follow McLean's Extra-Curricular/Co-Curricular Policy.

**\*\* A PRE-APPROVED AND EXCUSED ABSENCE IS GRANTED AT THE DISCRETION OF THE BAND DIRECTOR. \*\***

## REHEARSAL CONDUCT

**Cell Phones:** There will be no cell phones allowed during rehearsals. Students who are using a cell phone for any reason will have it taken away and turned over to Security.

**Tardiness:** There are two ways to be tardy to band class.

1. Students are not in the band room or lockers immediately outside the band room by the time the bell rings.
2. Students are not in seats, setup, and ready to play when the warm-up routine has begun.

**Class Participation:** All students receive daily class participation grades. Points will NOT be awarded for the following cases:

1. Sitting incorrectly while playing the instrument
2. Talking excessively during rehearsal
3. Disrupting others during rehearsal
4. Running, throwing things, playing percussion equipment (including sticks and mallets), or any other inappropriate behavior in the band room.

**Consequence:**

1. First occurrence: Student will be told to pack up their instrument and will receive a zero in participation for the day.
2. Second occurrence: Student will be assigned an after school detention (cleaning band room, sorting music, filing paperwork, etc.) Sports practices will not exempt you from serving detention time.

## SPORTS POLICY

***Band is a CLASS. Sports are EXTRA-curricular.***

Mr. Weise will try to be as flexible as we can to a certain point, but in here is a brief summary of conflicts and which activity you should plan to go to:

Band rehearsal takes precedent over sports practice.

Sports games/matches take precedent over band rehearsal.

Concerts take precedent over practices and games/matches.

Tournament play **MAY** take precedent over concerts. See Mr. Weise in this occurrence.

**Fundraising activities may take precedent over practices and games/matches. See Mr. Weise in this occurrence.**

That being said, efforts can be made to arrange compromises. This happens with appropriate and early **COMMUNICATION** with Mr. Weise.

Leniency will NOT be considered for day-of requests. Leniency will most likely not be considered for week-of requests.

***The key to working out compromises in your schedule is EARLY COMMUNICATION!***

## **SATURDAYS AND WEEKEND COMMITMENTS**

Students are expected to be at the following Saturday and weekend commitments: (see attached calendar)

1. Marching competitions – if in marching band – all day
2. Tag Day fundraiser – all day
3. Fruit Sale fundraiser – 2 hour block of time
4. All-District Band Auditions – Symphonic – all day, Concert Band – 2 hours or more
5. Raffle Day fundraiser – all day
6. District Assessment – times TBA – a few hours

*Find these dates on the calendar and plan your schedules accordingly, including sports!*

# McLEAN BAND CALENDAR 2014-15

[www.mcleanband.org](http://www.mcleanband.org)

Like us on Facebook for updates – McLean High School Band

Follow us on Twitter @McLeanBand

**NOTE: Every effort possible will be made to adhere to this calendar. Please understand that sometimes circumstances arise that cause events to be rescheduled. We will make our best effort to make everyone aware of any changes in a timely manner.**

## **THIS CALENDAR DOES NOT INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING REOCCURRING EVENTS:**

*Marching Band:*

During September and October:

Tuesdays – 3:00-5:30PM

Wednesdays – 7:00-9:30PM

Thursdays – 3:00-5:30PM

*Symphonic Band:*

Wednesday nights from 7:00-9:30PM starting in the end of October through the remainder of the school year

*Wind Ensemble:*

Monday afternoons from 2:30-4:00 starting in the end of October through the remainder of the school year

*Jazz Ensemble:*

Tuesday Evenings and Thursday Afternoons – times TBA

Executive Board Meetings:

First Tuesday of Each Month – 7:30 in the Career Center

### **September:**

2 – First day of School – rehearsal schedule printed above begins

4 – General Band parent Meeting – 7:30 PM in the Band Room

**13 – TAG DAY!!! – 8:00-4:30 – ALL BAND STUDENTS PARTICIPATE!**

19 – Home Football Game

20 – Marching Competition – BOA Monroeville, PA

26 – Home Football Game

27 – Marching Competition – Oakton Classic

29 – Sr. Regional Orchestra Audition at TJ – optional

### **October:**

2 – Home Football Game

11 – Marching Competition – USSBA Winchester

17 – Homecoming Football Game

25 – Marching Competition – BOA University of DE

31 – Football Game – Pep Band Only!

### **November:**

10 – Symphonic Band rehearsal for Fall Concert – 2:30-4

11 – Fall Concert for Symphonic Band

13 – Symphonic Band joint Concert with George Mason University Wind Symphony

13-15 – Senior Regional Orchestra – for those who make it from the audition

27-28 – Thanksgiving Holiday

### **December:**

5-6 – Fruit Sale

7 – Marching Band Holiday Parade Performance

9 – Concert Band rehearsal – 2:30-4:00

13 – Percussion Ensemble MFA Rehearsal – 9-4

16 – Concert Band rehearsal – 2:30-4:00

18 – Winter Concert – all bands – 7:00PM

19 – Holiday Performance for School

**January:**

- 9 – All-District Band setup day**
- 10 – All-District Band auditions – required for Symphonic, others optional**
- 24 – Percussion Ensemble MFA Rehearsal – 9-4

**February:**

- 2 – Symphonic Band MFA National Concert Band Festival Mini-Camp – 8-4**
- 5-7 – All district band Event (for those who made it from the audition)
- 10 – Jazz Ensemble Concert with Elementary Area Band – 7:00PM**
- 17 – Wind Ensemble rehearsal – 2:30-4:00 (Monday Holiday)
- 19 – Concert Band rehearsal – 2:30-4:00
- 20 – Symphonic Band rehearsal with Guest Conductor – 2:30-4:30
- 24 – Concert Band rehearsal – 2:30-4:00
- 26 – Pre-Festival Concert – 7:00**
- 28 – Percussion Ensemble MFA Rehearsal – 9-4
- 28 – All-State Band Auditions – James Madison University

**March:**

- 3 – Symphonic Band rehearsal with guest conductor – 2:30-4:30
- 7 – Wind Ensemble District Festival Performance – time TBA**
- 7 – Symphonic Band District Festival Performance – time TBA**
- 9 – Symphonic Band rehearsal – 2:30-4
- 11 – Symphonic Band rehearsal – 2:30-4
- 11-15 – Symphonic Band Trip to MFA National Concert Band Festival - Indianapolis**
- 21 – Raffle Day!!! 8:00-4:00**
- 28 – Chantilly Jazz Festival**

**April:**

- 9-11 – All-State Band – for those who make it
- 9 – General Band Parent Meeting – 7:30
- 16-18 – Spring Trip to VA Beach**
- 23 – New Band Student Orientation – 7:00
- 25 – Solo/Ensemble Festival – optional participation
- 30 – US Navy Band Concert featuring Symphonic students – 7:00PM**

**May:**

- 1 – Band Pyramid Concert – 7:00PM – Symphonic Band only**
- 7 – Percussion Ensemble Concert at Madison – 7:00PM**
- 14 – Concert Band rehearsal – 2:30-4:00
- 19 – Concert Band rehearsal – 2:30-4:30
- 26 – Concert Band rehearsal – 2:30-4:00
- 28 – Spring/Raffle Concert – all bands – 7:00PM**

**June:**

- 7 – Band Banquet – 6:00PM in the cafeteria**
- 9-11 – Marching Band Leadership Training – 2:30-4:00
- 16 – Graduation – grad band performs**
- 19 – Last Day of School
- 19-23 – Percussion Marching Band Clinics

# McLean High School Band Program

## Finance Information and Policies

### For School Year 2014-2015

The McLean High School Band Parents Association (MHSBPA) has entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) to collect required FCPS materials fees and fees for FCPS sponsored optional activities.

FCPS will not charge students a fee for any mandatory aspect of the marching band program except for musical instrument and consumable fees permitted by Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) regulations. No individual school or booster organization may require a student to pay fees for musical instruments and consumables in excess of the amount approved by the School Board in Notice 5922, Revenue, Tuition, and Fees – Student Fees..

As a result of our agreement with FCPS, we have restructured the types and manner of payments collected. The new fee structure is as follows beginning with the 2014-2015 school year and starts now with the collection of marching band fees.

#### **Fee Structure**

The new structure includes required Course Materials Fees and FCPS sponsored optional Activity Fees. Course materials fees cover consumable materials associated with a course and are a required element of that course. Activity fees are fees charged in connection with a particular activity and cover some or all of the actual costs of that activity. Participation in the particular activity is optional but if a student decides to participate in the activity, payment of the activity fee is required

#### **Marching Band (including Color Guard)**

**Marching Band Course Materials Fee (\$150 due by May 1, 2014):** This fee is similar to required fees that you pay for certain other FCPS classes. It covers consumable materials related to the course. Examples of the consumable materials eligible to be covered by this fee include: uniform purchases and maintenance, the drillbook, music/choreography for the show, band t-shirt, instrument accessories, equipment repairs, and food during instructional activities. **If fees collected exceed the costs incurred for all consumable materials, any excess fees will be set aside in an FCPS reserve account to fund future purchases of marching band uniforms.**

**Marching Band Camp Activity Fee (\$350 due by June 1, 2014 and is non-refundable after July 1, 2014):**

This is an optional activity fee that students are expected to pay as part of their participation in marching band. While participation in marching band is a required element of the Symphonic band course, a student still has the choice of whether to participate in Symphonic Band or not. For a student

who does not desire to participate in marching band, they can sign up for the Wind Ensemble or Concert Band course. This activity fee covers a portion of the costs of Marching Band Camp (which starts in mid-August and continues through to mid to late October). Examples of such costs are marching band instruction, food and other miscellaneous expenses of Marching Band Camp. Fundraising proceeds are used to fund remaining costs associated with Marching Band Camp.

Marching/Color Guard Uniform Accessories (amount varies - due by June 1, 2014): Certain uniform accessory items are required to be purchased separately by the students as needed. Orders for such items can be placed in the Charms online store. Examples of these items include marching band shoes, color guard shoes, color guard gloves, and replacement t-shirts (the first one is free).

Marching Band Trip Activity Fee (Actual cost but NTE \$75 –due date TBD): This optional activity fee covers the cost of trips taken for Marching Band competitions, which sometimes are overnight trips. For the 2014-2015 year, it is anticipated that there will be two competitions that are out of the area. Each trip is expected to be one very long day with no overnight. The fee will be set when more information is available, but the total trip fee charged for these two trips combined will not exceed \$75. The fee covers costs such as transportation, hotels (if applicable), and snacks/meals provided during the trip. If fees collected exceed the actual cost of the trip, excess fees will be refunded.

### **Concert Bands (Symphonic, Wind Ensemble and Concert Bands)**

Concert Band Course Materials Fee (\$25 due by September 19, 2014): This fee is similar to the fees that you pay for certain other FCPS classes. It covers consumable materials related to the course. Examples of the materials eligible to be covered by this fee include uniform purchases and maintenance, music, and instrument accessories. **If fees collected exceed the costs incurred for all consumable materials, any excess fees will be set aside in an FCPS reserve account to fund future purchases of concert band uniforms.**

Uniform Accessories (amount varies and is due by September 19, 2014): Certain uniform accessory items are required to be purchased separately by the students as needed. While certain concert uniform components are provided (jacket/vest, bow tie and cummerbund), students are responsible for purchasing and maintaining their shirt (including stud buttons), pants/skirt, and black dress shoes. All items except shoes are available in the Charms online store.

Trip Activity Fee (Actual cost TBD – refund policy TBD): This optional activity fee covers the cost of trips taken by the concert bands. All concert bands generally go on one overnight trip to perform in a competition during the Spring. There have also been additional overnight trips in certain years. For example, the Symphonic Band has travelled to VMEA Conference in Virginia Beach, VA and to the Bands of America National Festival in Indianapolis, IN. While these overnight trips are not a required component of any course, most students generally choose to participate. Trip fees are determined and assessed based on the estimated costs of the trip (transportation, hotel, certain meals, etc.). If fees collected exceed the actual cost of the trip, any excess fees will be refunded.



Musical Instrument Rental Fee (\$52 for percussionists, \$92 for wind and brass players – due October 1, 2014): This required fee only applies to students who play school-owned instruments and covers maintenance costs of those school-owned instruments. This fee is not collected by MHSBPA but is included in this document for your reference.

Individual Performance Opportunities (amount varies – due date TBD): There are opportunities throughout the school year for individual students to choose to audition and/or participate in other bands. Examples include the All-District or All-State Band and the Solo and Ensemble Festival. Audition or participation fees are often assessed for these opportunities by the sponsoring organization. Such fees are not established by MHSBPA, but MHSBPA often assists in the collection of these fees from individuals who elect to participate and the submission of one group payment to the respective third party. These fees are communicated at the time other information about these opportunities is communicated.

### **Jazz Band**

Jazz Band Activity Fee (\$75 –due date TBD): Jazz Band is an FCPS sponsored optional activity. This fee covers a portion of the costs of Jazz Band. Examples of such costs are Jazz Band Director and Jazz Band equipment. Fundraising proceeds are used to fund remaining costs associated with the Jazz Band.

Uniform Accessories (amount varies- due date TBD): Students are responsible for purchasing and maintaining their Jazz Band shirt.

### **Winter (Indoor) Guard**

Winter (Indoor) Guard Activity Fee (Amounts vary by group but are TBD– due date and refund policy TBD): This fee covers a portion of the costs of Winter (Indoor) Guard which is an FCPS sponsored optional activity. Examples of such costs are Winter Guard Director, instructional staff, Winter Guard equipment and transportation of equipment to competitions. Fundraising proceeds are used to fund remaining costs associated with the Winter Guard.

Uniform Accessories (amount varies – due date TBD): Certain accessory items are required to be purchased separately by the students as needed. Orders for most items can be placed in the Charms online store. Examples of these items include warm up suits, color guard shoes, and color guard gloves.

Winter Guard Trip Activity Fee (Actual cost TBD – refund policy TBD): This fee covers the cost of trips taken by the Winter Guard to competitions. The Winter Guard sometimes goes on an overnight trip to perform in a competition during the Spring. Trip fees are determined and assessed based on the estimated costs of the trip (transportation, hotel, certain meals, etc.). If fees collected exceed the actual cost of the trip, any excess fees will be refunded.

## **Payment Policies**

All payments are processed through Charms. Students and parents may login to their student account at any time to view fees and balances due. Payments may be made via credit card, cash, or check as described below.

- Credit Card payments are made through Charms. After making your payment, please log back into Charms to ensure that your payment appears within your student account.
- Payments made by check should be placed in the locked box within the band room. If paying by check, please make the check payable as instructed for the particular payment and write the name of the student and the name of the fee being paid in the memo line of the check. Please note that a fee will be assessed for any returned checks. Such fee will be the actual amount charged by the bank related to the returned check, not to exceed \$50.
- Paying by cash is discouraged. If paying by cash, please put the money in an envelope and write the name of the student and the name of the fee being paid (I e. Tom Smith, Spring trip fee) and take the envelope to the front office of the school and give it to the MHS staff responsible for collecting such cash payments. A receipt will be given to you acknowledging the cash payment. NO CASH PAYMENTS SHOULD BE DEPOSITED INTO THE LOCKBOX IN THE BAND ROOM.

## Refunds

Typically fees paid are non-refundable once commitments and purchases have been made. These refund policies will be communicated separately as they relate to individual activities.

## **Financial Assistance**

*Financial assistance is available for those in need of such assistance.* Requests for financial assistance should be made directly to the Band Director prior to the due date for the related fee using the Financial Assistance Request Form available in Charms.