



McLean Highlander Band

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WELCOME TO THE MCLEAN BAND PROGRAM!

We are excited that you have chosen to become a part of our outstanding group of students and continue our tradition of excellence! The Bands at McLean High School are a visible and important part of the culture of our students and our community. Our staff works hard to provide you with a comprehensive, challenging, and fun experience in your music education. We want this to be an important and impactful part of your lives for the next four years!

Here are the first steps to being a part of our program:

1. **ALL STUDENTS** need to register for CHARMS. This is the communication and accounting system provided by FCPS. There is a form attached to this packet that we need you to fill out and turn in either in person or by email to get you setup for that system. Once you are in, you will be able to receive email communication, order band and spirit wear, sign up to volunteer, pay online via credit card, etc.
2. **ALL FRESHMEN STUDENTS** and *their parents should attend our New Band Student Orientation Meeting at McLean HS on Thursday, April 23 at 7PM.*
3. Decide if you are going to participate in the Highlander Marching Band. This is one of the most fun and important parts of the overall high school band experience. The most important time to register for marching band is before your FRESHMEN YEAR. This will help ease your transition into high school in a very comfortable way. All students should strongly consider registering for marching band.

MARCHING BAND REGISTRATION:

If you choose to be a part of the Highlander Marching Band, please see the attached schedule, fee structure, and commitment form.

1. Turn in the commitment form signed by you and your parents along with the first payment and Charms registration form. The first payment is the FCPS Course Materials Fee for Marching Band - \$160. This is all due by May 1 and is non-refundable. You can drop them in the wooden box in the McLean band room, drop them at the main office, or give them to Ms. Denson at school.
2. After the initial registration, you will receive a second round of forms for our summer program in August. These forms will be due by June 12 along with the Marching Band Camp Activity Fee of \$340.

Please let us know if you have any questions! ***You can call or email me any time.*** Again, we are really looking forward to working with you next year!

Chris Weise
Director of Bands, McLean HS

Marching Band & Guard Preliminary Schedule 2015

ALL STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO BE AT ALL PRE-SEASON REHEARSALS!

THIS SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

April:

23 – New Band & Guard Student Orientation – 7:30PM

May:

1 – Marching Band & Guard Registration Due

20 – Color Guard Training – 6PM – 9PM

27 – Color Guard Training – 6PM – 9PM

June:

3 – Color Guard Training – 6PM – 9PM

6 – Marching Percussion – Front Ensemble Rehearsal – 10AM-1PM

12 - Marching Percussion – Front Ensemble Rehearsal – 3PM-6PM

12 – Color Guard Training Clinic – 5PM – 9PM

13 – Color Guard Training Clinic – 9AM – 6PM

13 - Marching Percussion – Front Ensemble Rehearsal – 10AM-2:30PM

19 - Marching Percussion – Drumline Rehearsal – 2PM-6PM

22 - Marching Percussion – Drumline Rehearsal – 2PM-6PM

23 - Marching Percussion – Drumline Rehearsal – 2PM-6PM

July:

8 - Color Guard Training Clinic - 5:30PM – 8:30PM

15 - Color Guard Training Clinic - 5:30PM – 8:30PM

22 - Color Guard Training Clinic - 5:30PM – 8:30PM

29 - Color Guard Training Clinic - 5:30PM – 8:30PM

August:

11 – Section Leaders 8-12 (lunch provided)

12 – **Rookie Day (new marchers) with Section Leaders** 8AM-4PM

13-14 – **All Marchers Pre-Camp** 8AM-4PM

17- September 4 – **Band Camp** – detailed schedule TBD

September:

3 – Potluck Dinner and Preview Performance – 6PM

8 – First Day of School – regular practice schedule begins

10 - General Band & Guard Parent Membership Meeting 7:30PM in band room

11 – Home Football Game

18 – Home Football Game

19 – TAG DAY FUNDRAISER – All Band & Guard Students Participate

26 – USBands Yamaha Cup – Giant's Stadium

October:

10 – Rock Ridge Marching Competition – Ashburn, VA

16 – Home Football Game

17 – Marching Competition – BOA Delaware

23 – Home Football Game – Homecoming!

Schedule during the school year after school: until Oct. 22

Tuesdays and Thursdays – 3:30PM-6:00

Wednesdays – 7:00PM-9:30

Other Notes:

- Marching competitions take most of the day. There will be a rehearsal at school and then the competition. Times for everything will be based on when we are scheduled to perform.
- All rehearsals and performances are required.
- Percussion/Drumline/Color Guard times may vary slightly from this schedule, but will still remain on the same days

McLean High School Band Program

Finance Information and Policies

For School Year 2015-2016

The following is a description of **McLean High School Band Program** course material fees and FCPS-sponsored optional activity fees for participation in the music program for the upcoming season.

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. Schools cannot require a student to pay fees for course materials in excess of the amount approved by the School Board in Notice 5922, Revenue, Tuition, and Fees – Student Fees.

Fee Structure

The fee structure includes required Course Materials Fees and FCPS sponsored optional Activity Fees. Required course materials fees cover consumable materials associated with a course and are a required element of that course.

FCPS sponsored optional activity fees are 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. Any fees collected that exceed actual cost of materials or activities will be set aside in an FCPS reserve account to fund future purchases of band uniforms.

Marching Band (including Color Guard)

Marching Band Course Materials Fee (\$160 due by May 1, 2015): This fee is similar to required fees paid for certain, other FCPS classes. It covers consumable materials related to the course. Examples of the consumable materials covered by this fee include: uniform purchases and maintenance, the drill book, 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 band uniforms.

Marching Band Camp Activity Fee (\$340 due by June 1, 2015 and non-refundable after July 1, 2015): This is an optional activity fee that students are expected to pay if they choose to participate 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 October). Examples of such costs are marching band instruction, food

and other miscellaneous expenses of Marching Band Camp. If fees collected exceed the costs incurred, any excess fees will be set aside in an FCPS reserve account to fund future purchases of band uniforms.

Marching/Color Guard Uniform Accessories (amount varies - due by June 1, 2015): 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.

Marching Band Trip Activity Fee (Actual cost and due date TBD): This optional activity fee covers the cost of trips taken for Marching Band competitions. For the 2015-2016 year, it is anticipated that there will be two competitions that are out of the area. One trip is expected to be one very long day with no overnight, and the other trip is expected to be an overnight trip. The amount of the fee will be determined when more information is available. 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 18, 2015): 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 band uniforms.

Uniform Accessories (amount varies and is due by September 18, 2015): 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 and due date 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, 2015): This required fee is applicable to students who play school-owned instruments and covers maintenance costs of those school-owned instruments.

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. These fees are communicated at the time other information about these opportunities is available

Jazz Band

Jazz Band Activity Fee (\$100 –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 include instrument accessories, music, and food during instructional activities.

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 and are TBD– due date 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 instructional staff, uniforms, equipment and transportation of equipment to competitions.

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 and due date TBD): This optional activity fee covers the cost of trips taken by the Winter Guard to competitions. 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 fee 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 underlying 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.

McLean High School Band CHARMS

Registration

McLean Band uses an on-line system called CharmsOffice www.charmsoffice.com to communicate with parents and students and to manage our band activities.

To make sure that you receive important band related information for the next school year and to kick off your student's record in charms, please email the following information to [REDACTED] (preferred method) or turn this form into Ms. Denson.

First and Last Name of the Student

Preferred Parent Email Address

Student Email Address

FCPS Student ID

Instrument Student Plays or Color Guard

Current Grade

Student Cell Phone

You will be receiving further information once we have added your student's record.

McLean High School Highlander Marching Band

Participation Commitment Form 2015

All members of the Highlander Marching Band are expected to adhere to the following statements:

- I understand that I must abide by all rules and regulations set forth by Fairfax County Public Schools and McLean High School during all Highlander Marching Band activities and events.
- I commit to attending every rehearsal and performance for the full duration of the season. Special conflicts with the calendar will be brought to Mr. Weise's attention as early as possible. I will avoid scheduling vacations, doctor appointments, tutoring, sports practices, etc. during the scheduled calendar of rehearsals and events, particularly in August.
- I will be punctual for all call times, rehearsals, and performances. I will be in place and prepared to work at the time instructed.
- I understand that for the ensemble to be successful we need 100% commitment from each member.
- I understand that individual absence or tardiness negatively impacts the learning and experience of every other member in the ensemble.
- I will effectively carry out any out-of-rehearsal preparation/practice needed in order to keep up with assignments and hasten the progress of the entire ensemble.
- I agree to bring a positive and cooperative attitude to each rehearsal and performance.
- I understand the Highlander Marching Band is drug, alcohol, and tobacco free. Failure to comply with this policy will result in disciplinary action, which can lead to removal from the ensemble, referral to the administration and appropriate authorities, and possible expulsion from school as permitted by the Student Rights and Responsibilities Regulation
- I will strive for academic excellence in all of my classes and effectively manage my time to balance all commitments.
- I understand that I am responsible for any fees required by FCPS with my enrollment in the marching band program and as explained in the attached documents. My deposit to participate is included with this form and I understand that it may be non-refundable.
- I understand that I represent the McLean Highlander Marching Band both on and off the field. I will exhibit good sportsmanship and dignity. I understand that my actions reflect not only on myself but also on the entire group. I agree to represent the band in a positive and responsible manner throughout the school and community.
- I will respect the property of others and the school. I will never abuse nor tolerate the abuse of someone else's property.
- I will comply and cooperate with any instructions given by a staff member, parent volunteer, or student leader. I will also cooperate at all times with my fellow band members.
- I will be a reliable member of this ensemble. I will not let my colleagues down.
- I agree to have fun, cherish the memories, work hard, and never give up.

SIGNATURES REQUIRED ON THE BACK!

I have read and fully understand the above information and agree with the content. This is my commitment to participate. I am prepared to be an active and productive member of the Highlander Marching Band. I understand that my participation may be in jeopardy if these expectations are not met. I am aware that my place in the show is specifically written to include me based on this commitment and my lack of participation from here on out will negatively impact all of the other students' ability to achieve their best.

Student Printed Name

Student Signature

Date

Marching Instrument or Guard

I understand and support the commitment my son/daughter has made to the Highlander Marching Band. I understand that this includes a responsibility on my part to help them succeed in following through with this commitment. I understand the financial and calendar obligations that are represented by this commitment.

Parent/Legal Guardian Printed Name

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature

Date

Financial Assistance:

NO STUDENT IN THE MCLEAN BAND WILL EVER BE PROHIBITED FROM PARTICIPATING BECAUSE OF FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES!

Contact Mr. Weise via e-mail at cmweise@fcps.edu regarding Financial Aid if you are in need of some assistance.

This form must be completed with signatures and the \$160 Course Material Fee is due by Friday, May 1, 2015!

Form and check should be submitted one of three ways:

1. Put in the wooden secure box in the band room at McLean High School
2. Given to Mr. Zimmerman or Ms. Denson
3. Mailed to Chris Weise at McLean High School – 1633 Davidson Rd. McLean, VA 22101

Payment for this deposit should be made by CHECK payable to **McLean High School**

Contact for Questions: Chris Weise, Director of Bands - cmweise@fcps.edu - 703-714-5815