

MCLEAN BANDS 2014-15 SYLLABUS

Chris Weise, Director of Bands – cmweise@fcps.edu
Deidra Denson, Associate Director of Band – dmdenson@fcps.edu
Band Office Phone – 703-714-5815
Band Office Fax – 703-714-5814
Like us on Facebook – McLean High School Band
Follow us on Twitter - @McLeanBand
www.mcleanband.com

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Concert Band and Wind Ensemble

The Concert Band is an intermediate level ensemble comprised of students from 9th grade through 12th 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 7TH!

*****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.

(1)

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

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.

2

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.