



*Parent's Most Frequently
Asked Questions*

What is the time commitment for Marching Band?

Marching Season begins in early August and continues until late October. The band rehearses M-T-Th from 6-9 pm in August and T-Th from 6-9 pm in September and October. There are also 6 band camps from 9 am-3 pm on various Saturdays in August and September. In addition there are full day rehearsals and performances on Saturdays and Sundays in September and October as well as home varsity football games on Friday nights. Students are required to be at all rehearsals, camps, and performances. It's a very busy and rewarding schedule.

What is the volunteer time commitment for my family?

The level of commitment is entirely up to you and your family; however, the atmosphere is addicting. While your student is getting to know his/her new classmates, parents are also making some new lifelong friends. During Marching Season parents gather in the band room to fit uniforms, sew, iron, do paperwork, as well as repair equipment and best of all, help out wherever needed. There are almost 200 students in band, and it takes many volunteers to make it successful. No matter what your level of expertise, we can always use your help.

After October, the schedule is less intensive, and volunteering is minimal. Volunteers are needed during concerts, pep bands, and fund raisers.

Can my child participate in other clubs and be a member of the band?

There are many activities taking place during the High School Marching Season (football, swimming, cross country, etc). Students who choose to belong to more than one group will be faced with making decisions as to which practice or performance they need to attend. For example, a student on the Swim Team is scheduled to be at a meet on a Saturday, at the same time the band has a band camp. Students faced with this type of schedule will attend the meet and immediately come to band rehearsal for the remainder of the practice.

Many students are very successful at participating in multiple groups. Please keep in mind that the more groups your student is a part of, the bigger the time commitment. They will need to be prepared to balance their extra curricular activities with their studies.

Can students participate in marching band and be enrolled in accelerated classes?

Yes, many students are able to do very well in both. The band consists of many High Honors and Renaissance students. The 2009 Valedictorian was a 4 year member of the band.

Band students have a long standing reputation for being among the best in the school!

We go on vacation in the August; can my student miss practices or performances?

The expectation from the band is a 100% commitment. However, we understand that families go on vacation and have things to do and will work with your family to balance practice and home life. You are expected to check the band schedule and make every effort to avoid conflicts if at all possible.

Are the performances mandatory? (Concerts, Marching, Pep Band)

Yes, students are required to participate in all activities as part of their comprehensive music education within the OCHS Band. It is expected that students and parents will make every possible effort to avoid missing any performance. The band schedule is in place for the entire year so that you will plan ahead

Does my child need to take private music lessons?

Private lessons are always encouraged! Lessons are a valuable form of enrichment that will benefit your individual student and the entire band program. If you can afford private lessons for your student, you should definitely sign them up. If you need help finding a teacher, just ask the band directors for assistance.

How often will my student have band and will my student get lessons in school?

Your student will have band class every day during school. Lessons are available on a weekly basis during study hall or after school by appointment.

Are there any other expenses to participate in band?

At the mandatory parent meeting in August parents are asked to pay a \$75 transportation fee to help cover the cost of the coach busses which are used for all student travel. During performances, rehearsals, and band camps, parents are also asked to provide various food items which are used to feed the students. Generally your assigned item will cost about \$5.

Explain the Spring Trip.

The yearly band trip is the highlight of the school year every spring. The cost of the trip is approximately \$600 per student. Fund raising opportunities are available to offset the cost of the trip. The dates of the trip rotate every other year between Spring break and a week during school when there is a 2 or 3 day vacation scheduled so there is minimal school time missed. Students are also able to work ahead or make up missed work during band for one week before and after the trip.

Parents are asked to attend a mandatory meeting prior to the trip where the detailed itinerary is reviewed. The schedule is filled with a variety of educational and musical experiences. All students and staff travel via coach busses. The students are supervised by staff and parents who are familiar with the students and are able to care for them if medical issues should arise. The trip is NOT mandatory; however, all students are encouraged to attend and most will choose to do so. Some of our past trips include: Colorado Springs, CO, Atlanta, GA, Myrtle Beach, Orlando, FL.

What are the different fund raisers?

The band has many different fund raising opportunities throughout the year. You can choose to participate in one or all opportunities. We have many popular fund raising items; Mc Donald's Coupons, Cheesecakes, Fruit Sales, Pocket Peelers and many more. You can also choose to work at the concessions stand at the Bradley Center as a way to offset your child's trip cost.

Explain the Bradley Center fund raiser.

The band has been involved with the Bradley for many years and was recently named "Group of the Year" for our dedication. We are committed to working approximately 50 events a year. Lists of events are emailed and you can choose to work as few or as many events as you would like. If you choose to work an event, all parents car pool together to get to the Bradley Center. Groups are responsible for: managing the operation of a stand, serving guests, handling cash and food products, dispensing soda and beer, accounting for cash and inventory, and cleaning up the stand at the conclusion of the event.

How much does the Bradley Center pay to work their events?

Every event is different. A typical Bucks game can give you between \$20 - \$30 in your child's account. Some events will pay as much as \$90. Most events are in the evening and last approximately 5-6 hours. It's a great way to earn money for your child and to get to meet other parents in band.

How can I get more information?

Check out our website: ocmarchingknights.com

Come to the Band Meeting during the OCHS Open House in February.

Talk to current OCHS Band Members and Parents

