

The McCormick Marching Chiefs Handbook



The Marching Chief Music Education Philosophy

The McCormick Marching Chief Band program here at McCormick Middle and High School will add to a student's knowledge of music and give new musical experiences. Through the marching band program, students will receive a new aspect of music education and performance, develop technical mastery of their instruments, be able to play a variety of music and styles, and improve music reading skills. The Marching Chiefs will take pride in performing and in the development of musicianship and overall life skills within each student.

Explanation of Overall Instruction from Band Staff

The band staff which is comprised of Mr. Wilson (Dir. of Bands), Mr. Nowlin (Asst. Dir. of Bands), and Ms. Green (Flag and Dance Inst.) are the individuals that teach and facilitate marching band. The band staff will teach and facilitate marching band similar to what a student would experience if they played a sport such as basketball or football because marching band is actually considered to be a sport contrary to what many may believe. Marching band students must exemplify extreme discipline and be in top physical shape in order to perform a full halftime show and to also march a full parade which our students are asked to do. Also similar to sports, marching bands have to compete against other bands in order to win trophies to establish them as being superior to other bands which is what sports teams do as well.

Students will be held to a high standard and pushed consistently to correctly and effectively perform to their highest potential and level possible. Band staff will always be stern, but respectful to all students. Band staff will speak to your child in a stern, but respectful tone. Sternness from any band staff should never be taken as disrespect. It is impossible to effectively redirect or discipline an individual or group with a soft or nice tone all of the time. Again, this is similar to what a student would experience in any other sport including basketball and or football for example.

Band staff will also not use profanity or make any type of derogatory comments at any time while working with students. Mr. Wilson will discipline any staff member that uses profanity or does anything malicious while working with students. Discipline could range from being removed from the band for a particular amount of time to being removed completely if necessary.

Leadership Team Explanation and Expectations

(Drum Majors and Section Leaders)

Similar to any other sport like football and basketball for example, every team has captains and or leaders that help their coach manage the team. Band works the same way. Marching Bands have leadership positions such as the drum major in which their hierarchy is right under the adult staff followed by section leaders which manage their own section and helps both the drum majors and band staff manage the band.

These leadership positions help students develop their overall leadership skills which will prepare them for future leadership roles in their lives in other facets. The drum majors and section leaders are referred to as the Leadership Team. All drum majors and section leaders have their own camp with band staff over the summer to learn how to be an effective leader within the band.

Drum majors and section leaders have the authority to not only lead overall instruction within the marching band, but also give their peers specific instructions and to also help redirect them when they are doing something wrong. Drum majors and section leaders do not have the authority to make any student do any sort of physical activity. Physical activity will only be given from band staff.

Drum majors and section leaders will speak to your children in a stern but respectful manner to help manage the band and also help control or manage situations where either a student or the band as a whole may not be doing what they're

supposed to do at a given time. Sternness from any drum major or section leader should never be taken as disrespect. It is impossible to effectively redirect or discipline an individual or group with a soft or nice tone all the time. A stern but respectful tone will be used to help manage the band not only from the band staff but also from the Leadership Team.

If the staff feels that a drum major or section leader has been disrespectful to any adult or student, they will receive 1 strike per offense. If a 2nd strike is received, the student will lose their leadership position.

Band Fee

(THIS IS VALID ONLY IF A BAND FEE IS IN EFFECT!)

(THERE IS NO BAND FEE IN EFFECT FOR THE 2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR!)

If a student's band fee is not paid by the scheduled due date, they will be removed from marching band until their band fee is paid in full. After a student has paid their band fee in full following being removed from not having been paid in full by the due date, they will be permitted to rejoin marching band.

Senior Letterman Jackets

In order to encourage students to remain in marching band for as long as possible, the McCormick Band Booster Organization purchases Senior Letterman Jackets for seniors that successfully complete an entire high school tenure of marching band. Seniors cannot receive a free letterman jacket if they haven't done marching band for their complete tenure of attending McCormick High School or if they start a year and are either removed from the band for any reason for the entire year or if they leave the band on their own. Also, if a student consistently misses a majority of the year for any reason which is usually due to the student choosing not to participate consistently, they will also be ineligible to receive a free senior letterman jacket.

3 Strike Rule

The McCormick Marching Chiefs will handle and monitor discipline using a "3 Strike Rule." This strategy is used to give students more than one opportunity to correct incorrect behavior if it happens to occur. If a student fails to meet any of the expectations listed in this handbook or has to be reprimanded for any reason, they will receive 1 strike. Students will also sign and date when they have received a strike and document the consequence they received a strike for. Once a student receives 3 strikes, they will be removed from the marching band for the remainder of the year. Students that are removed from marching band will still have the opportunity to join marching band the following year.

Immediate Removal From Marching Band

If a student does something extreme such as but not limited to extreme disrespect towards an adult, fighting, or just something that the band staff finds to be extreme, the student will be removed immediately from the marching band for the remainder of the year. The student will be permitted to rejoin the following year.

Attendance Policy for SCHEDULED REHEARSALS AND PERFORMANCES

Attendance is mandatory for all marching band students. Students are also required to be in attendance for the entire duration of a rehearsal. If a student needs to be absent for any scheduled rehearsal or performance or leave practice or an event early, notification should be given no later than 1 day after the absence or early dismissal which will allow the absence or early dismissal to be excused. This includes all students that may have a job and have to go to work on a day when marching band practice is scheduled. Work is not a valid excuse to miss practice! Notifications after the day of an absence will not be excused. A student will receive 1 strike for each unexcused absence.

Students must also come to practice or performances with the correct attire and materials such as but not limited to instruments, sticks, mallets, and or straps. If a student does not have the correct attire or materials, they will be permitted to either go home and get what they need or have someone bring them what they need if possible. Students may not participate in rehearsals or performances if they do not have the correct attire and will also receive an unexcused absence which will result in 1 strike.

If a student has 2 or more unexcused absences during a week, they will not be permitted to perform at that week's football game or events.

If a student happens to miss 2 or more rehearsals due to an excused absence, Mr. Wilson can make the decision to keep the student from performing at a football game and or performance depended upon if Mr. Wilson feels the student is unable to perform effectively because of the practice time they missed.

Participating in Sports and or Cheerleading While Participating in Marching Band

Students are permitted to participate in other extra-curricular activities while participating in marching band. Athletes are asked to report to band practice as soon as their sport practice is over and also participate in all performances including varsity football players. Students will never be counted absent whenever they are away from practice if their sport practice lasts to or after 7:00 p.m. or if they have a game on the day of a band rehearsal and or performance. If an athlete's practice ends before 7:00 p.m., they are required to come to band practice including varsity football players. Students will receive an unexcused absence if their sport practice ends before 7:00 p.m. and they do not show up to band practice. Athletes will also receive a strike for not showing up to a performance if Mr. Wilson is not notified by the student's parents no later than the day after a performance.

Gameday Procedures

On gamedays, students are asked to eat food if they wish before 4:00 p.m. if possible. If students aren't able to get or eat their food before 4:00 p.m., they will have a window of opportunity to eat often after 5:00 p.m. Students will usually go outside at 4:00 p.m. until about 5:00 p.m. if needed to practice over their halftime show and any gameday logistics for that night's football game. Unless there is an extreme situation to prevent doing so, students will usually have the opportunity to also eat at the concession stands at football games. The band can also stop for food at restaurants after gamedays, but primarily will refrain from doing so unless there is a dire need to stop at a restaurant to get food at the end of a football game.

Band App

In order to communicate effectively and to also effectively inform both students and parents of anything related to marching band, the marching chief family uses an app called "Band." Mr. Wilson asks that all marching band students and parents download the app on their phones so that everyone receives all information needed for marching band concerning events or anything that may need to be discussed.

All staff members are also on the app with the students to of course give directions or instructions, videos, pictures, audio clips, or sometimes just something encouraging or even funny to fully communicate with both students and parents.

It is imperative that all students and parents download the app and also use the app to receive all information that may be needed. This also includes emergencies when things have to be abruptly cancelled or anything like that.

No student or adult is permitted to do anything malicious while using the Band app. This includes but is not limited to profanity, bullying, anything explicit or sexual in nature, disrespect, belittling individuals, etc. All app activity is monitored by the band staff and will always be handled accordingly depended upon the offense. Students can also receive 1 strike or even be removed from the marching band depended upon the severity of the offense. Band staff can also be reprimanded for any inappropriate actions while using the Band app.

Marching Chiefs Expectations

***(NOT MEETING THESE EXPECTATIONS WILL RESULT IN RECEIVING 1 STRIKE PER EACH OFFENSE!
IT IS POSSIBLE TO RECEIVE MORE THAN 1 STRIKE IN 1 DAY!)***

- Attend all rehearsals and performances for the entire duration of the rehearsal and or performance
- Wind instrumentalists are to be seated while dancers and percussionists are to be in their correct area or position with percussion instruments strapped up at **4:00 p.m.** for all rehearsals.
- Properly perform physical exercises such as but not limited to running hills, push-ups, etc. when asked to do so.
- Proper use of the Marching Chiefs Uniform, Flag and Dance Squad School Uniforms, and School Owned Instruments and Equipment.
- All drum majors and section leaders to give respect to all adults and students.
- All drum majors and section leaders to help Mr. Wilson manage both the band and their musical sections.
- All students to behave and give respect to all students, adults, drum majors, and section leaders.
- Refrain from using any type of profanity and or derogatory comments.
- Follow directions given by adults, drum majors, and section leaders.
- Constantly show spirit and pride at rehearsals and performances.

- Keep up with and also have personal items available for use for rehearsals and performances such as but not limited to music, music notebooks, instruments, drumsticks, mallets, and straps. Students are not to leave their belongings in the band room or hallway. Students may leave their belongings in the storage room, but only if they leave it in their personal cubbie. Personal items are not permitted to be left out on the floor or on top of tables or anything like that in the storage room.
- To wear the required clothing and colors for both rehearsals and performances. Black shorts and ***PLAIN WHITE SHIRTS*** are the required clothing for rehearsals. A white shirt that has writing on it can also be worn, but it must be turned inside out to represent being a plain white shirt.
- To not have multiple trips to ISS or be given multiple out of school suspensions.
- To show consistency in marching, dancing, flagwork, and music performance.
- Practice music and dancing at home on a regular basis.
- Use the Band app for information and communication

Band Awards Banquet

At the end of every school year around the first Saturday in May, the Marching Chiefs host a Band Awards Banquet to reward both parents and students for their hard work throughout the year. If a student is removed from band because of receiving 3 strikes or is immediately removed from the band for inappropriate behavior, the student will not be recognized at the Band Awards Banquet. This also includes graduating seniors.



STUDENT/PARENT CONTRACT

I have read the Marching Band Handbook and understand the rules contained therein.

I agree to abide by the rules and regulations established by this handbook and Director of Bands. I understand that infractions are punishable by the methods prescribed within this document.

I also agree to fulfill all obligations to the band program including but not limited to performances, rehearsals, fundraising and financial matters.

Finally, I agree to be a proud and productive member of the McCormick Marching Chiefs and a proud Marching Band Parent!

Student Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date