



MARCHING BAND FAQ

The OHS Marching Band is Ola High School's largest extra-curricular activity, with roughly 160 members. The marching band regularly attends scheduled football games, parades, and band competitions throughout the United States. The band has consistently been awarded Grand Champions and First in Class since the band's inception. The OMB has competed in the Bands of America Super Regional and Regional Championships and the US Bands Southern States Championship competitions, as well as several local GMEA competitions. Most notably the Ola Marching Mustangs were Bands of America Regional class AA champions in 2011, and also performed in the Lord Mayors Day New Year's Day Parade in London, England on January 1, 2012. The marching band traveled to Hawaii in 2015 and performed in the Waikiki Holiday Parade and at the USS Missouri and USS Arizona, as part of ceremonies commemorating the 74th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. Most recently, the Marching Mustangs had the honor of performing in the 2017 Hollywood Christmas Parade in Hollywood, California. We are excited you have shown interest in becoming a member of our ensemble and hope that this "Marching Band FAQ" document may answer some of your questions.



Marching Band Competition Philosophy

While marching band competitions may appear to be about "winning trophies," as a director I feel that learning a competitive-style marching show and participating in these events provides our students a great learning experience and a solid **MUSIC** education. By participating in competitions, we encourage our students to challenge themselves at the highest levels, promote teamwork and leadership skills, and also develop the musicianship and performance skills of each member.

It is no secret that we live in a competitive world. Competitions have the ability to motivate each individual band to perform at their highest level. It is important to remember that unlike athletic competition, our performance has no direct effect on that of the other bands, and our focus should be on our performance. Our goal is continually to have our best show of the year and raise our standards for ourselves one performance at a time. Regardless of the competitive outcome, we will receive feedback on our program from some of the most respected band adjudicators in the state, which we will be able to share with the students. Students also get to see performances by many other bands at these events, which allow them to learn from what

they do and to simply enjoy their shows. Competitions allow us to celebrate our accomplishments, and also to learn from our mistakes. Please remember that judges do not take points off our score for mistakes; they award us points for what we achieve in our performance, and our recovery from error.

What is band camp?

Band camp is a series of mandatory rehearsals throughout the month of July where students learn the basics of marching band and how to march, set drill and coordinates, learn show music, and gain a strong rapport with fellow band members. Over those three weeks of band camps, we learn an extensive amount of material that is crucial to the success of our season.

2018 Band Camp Dates:

See the Band Calendar posted on the website for dates and times

www.olahighschoolband.com

What does my child need for camp?

1. Instrument in working order. Please have all repairs done prior to arrival at band camp.
2. Athletic Shoes (no Toms, sandals, converse "chucks", flip-flops, etc...)
3. Lightweight clothing –shorts and t-shirts
4. Sunscreen –SPF30 or higher is recommended. (There will be PLENTY of time for you to achieve a glowing tan . . . sitting out because of a sunburn is not acceptable. Please bring sunscreen and apply at all water breaks)
5. Writing utensil – pencils
6. Book bag – this will hold your music, binder, drill charts, etc.
7. Extra pair of shoes/socks/t-shirt – In case of rain.
8. Sunglasses/hats
9. Fanny Pack (or something similar) that can hold pencils and drill coordinate sheets. This is typically something that the student needs at the start of band camp once we begin to learn how to march and play at the same time. We will discuss with the students various options for them as we begin marching band camp.

***We will be providing a music binder for all students.**

***We will be providing a water jug for all students. This jug will travel EVERYWHERE with the marching band.**

DO NOT...

1. Wear any clothing that would be deemed inappropriate
2. Bring Medications – All medications (including Tylenol and Advil) must be distributed through a parent chaperone at rehearsals. Medication must be approved through the OHS Band Medical Form document signed by all parents

Yes...it will be hot.

We understand that we are starting marching band in the peak season for high temperatures ☺. The staff will give ample water breaks to our members throughout band camp. It will be imperative during these water breaks that all students **DRINK WATER**. Students that do not drink enough water will quickly become fatigued and dehydrated. Please make sure that you are making every effort to stay hydrated throughout the day and when you return home at night. If temperatures become too high and are unsafe for our members, we will move inside until it is safe to return.

Once school starts, how often does the band rehearse?

The Marching Mustangs rehearses on average three times per week (Monday 4:00-6:30p.m., Tuesday 4:00-6:30p.m., and Thursday 5:00- 8:30p.m.). There will also be a few Saturday minicamp rehearsals throughout the fall to help our members complete and perfect their marching band production. Becoming a part of the marching band is a strong commitment that must be fulfilled until the last game or competition. **Attendance at every rehearsal is mandatory**. Becoming a part of this organization means becoming a part of a **TEAM**. No one can sit the bench in marching band, and when we are missing people, the entire team suffers due to that absence. The OMB is a time commitment, but in the end, the rewards and benefits that are bestowed upon our students will stay with them for a lifetime.

Is it possible to take Honors and AP classes and still be in marching band?

Yes! We are proud that former Valedictorians, Salutatorians, and Honor Graduates have come from the Ola Marching Band! Marching Band is an activity where students will learn how to manage their time and take self-responsibility for their learning; also, they learn that hard work pays dividends in the end. Students must be pro-active in budgeting appropriate time to their academic classes while also being dedicated members of the Marching Band. It is unacceptable for students to withdrawal from marching band or miss rehearsals due to poor academic standing.

Where can I find the band calendar?

The official band website is: www.olahighschoolband.com

This website will be the lifeline of our organization and is home to all pertinent information including the band calendar, performance dates and itineraries, audio and video links, contact information, etc. Please take time to familiarize yourself with our website. We are also on facebook at Marching Mustangs, so please friend us to keep up with the band.

Will there be other costs associated to Marching Band?

We try our best to sustain the marching band through the acquired dues from each member. It is our intention to make the season as all-inclusive as possible. Transportation, uniforms, instructional staff, show shirts, props, equipment, colorguard flags, colorguard uniforms, are some of the costs that are covered by student dues. Marching Band members will need money on occasions to pay for meals while we are at competitions or football games.

Excused Absences vs. Unexcused Absences

Students should report any absence from a band rehearsal to the directors at least two weeks in advance. As we are planning our instruction in advance, it will be imperative that we know who will be missing from all rehearsals to plan our time accordingly. If a student should become ill during the school day, it will be the responsibility of that student to contact the directors to inform them of their absence. When planning for doctor's appointments, please try to plan around the rehearsal schedule for the marching band. Again, 100% attendance at rehearsals is imperative to our success.

Excused Absences: absent from school with doctor's excuse, family emergencies, checked out

Unexcused Absences: work, doctor's appointments, transportation issues, etc...

Performances

All marching band performances, both football games and competitions, are mandatory. Since this is a commitment to the band program and each other, please make sure prior to signing up for marching band that these dates are clear of all conflicts. Please visit the band website for a calendar through next December.

Fall Break for 2018

Fall Break 2018 for Henry County Schools is scheduled for September 17-21, 2018. The marching band **will not have a competition on either the 15th or 22rd. We do have a home football game on September 14th and we will need the full band in attendance that night to perform.** If you are making vacation plans for the break, please plan on leaving Saturday, September 15th or after. We will not have any other scheduled practices or performances during the remainder of the break.

What is a "BIA"?

BIA stands for Band Individual Account. Upon entering in the Ola Band organization, all students are given an individual account, much like a bank account. Students that participate in fundraising opportunities will have the ability to place money into their BIA. This money may be used for band related costs only (marching band dues, concert tux/dress payments, trip payments, instrumental rental fees, etc.). Any student wishing to know the current amount in their BIA should contact the Band Booster treasurer.

Ola High School Band Booster Organization

If you have a student enrolled in the Ola Band Program, you are automatically a member in the Ola Band Booster Organization. Parent volunteers are what allow our band program to be successful from both a logistical and financial standpoint

WE NEED YOUR HELP! The best way to truly understand how our organization operates is to be involved in our organization. The Band Booster Organization meets monthly to discuss policies, band functions, and upcoming events. Please attend the monthly meetings and consider signing up to work an event. Who knows....you just may have a good time!

If you should have any questions, please feel free to contact Todd Manson at Todd.Manson@henry.k12.ga.us