



The Bands of Ola High School

357 North Ola Road | McDonough, GA 30252 | (770) 288-3222

Director: Todd Manson

Asst. Director: Jamie McDonald

Todd.Manson@henry.k12.ga.us

James.McDonald@henry.k12.ga.us

2018 Ola High School Band FAQ:

Welcome to the Ola High School Band program! As you prepare for the transition from middle school to high school, we wanted to take this opportunity to pass along some information regarding our band program that may be helpful during the upcoming registration process. Our band program is extensive and is a bit different from what you may be used to at the middle school level. As always, if you have any questions regarding your child's future in the Ola HS Band, then please do not hesitate to contact us.

What classes are offered during the school day?

1. Green and Gold Band
2. Concert Winds
3. Symphonic Band
4. Wind Symphony
5. Percussion Class I: Marching Battery students in the Fall; Percussion Ensemble in the Spring
6. Percussion Class II: Front Ensemble Students in the Fall; Percussion Ensemble in the Spring
7. Jazz Band Class
8. Music Theory (11th and 12th graders only)

During registration should my child register for Green and Gold Band, Concert Winds, Symphonic Band or Wind Symphony?

On the registration form, simply choose **Band**. The HS band directors will place each rising 9th grader into the appropriate class for the upcoming school year. Instrumentation needs and schedule availability determine which band class he/she should be placed into.

What is the difference between Green and Gold Band, Concert Winds, Symphonic Band and Wind Symphony?

The biggest difference between Middle School and High School band classes is that we are able to place our students in bands based on their ability and not their grade level. This creates a 9-12 level band system in which we can meet the students where they are musically to ensure that we help them progress appropriately. All four regular band classes study a large variety of musical literature and perform regularly throughout the school year.

Can my child take the Jazz Band class that is offered during the school day?

If any wind players are interested in learning more about jazz music, then there are select spots available in the Jazz Band class. On the registration form you will see an option for **Jazz Band**. This band only requires selected instrumentation and is typically filled with upperclassmen each year. We do have several spots still available for next year (trumpet, trombone, and saxophone family). **All students must be enrolled in a regular band class first, before enrolling in the Jazz Band class.** Please see a high school director for more information about this class, if interested

What does my child register for if he/she is a Percussionist?

On the rising 9th grade registration form there is an option for **Percussion Ensemble**. We offer two percussion classes here at OHS. Both percussion classes are for marching band students only. Non-marching percussionists will choose **Band** on their registration form and we will audition them for proper placement into the band classes. Our marching band percussionists are offered a little more flexibility. Ideally, if the percussion student is in the marching band, then they should join the percussion class that suits them based off of fall membership. We have several marching band percussionists who also take an additional regular band class. We will discuss scheduling choices with every percussion student who auditions for band classes to make sure that we get their schedules correct for next year.

MARCHING BAND FAQ:

Is marching band a class that is offered during the school day?

No, marching band is not a class. The marching band is one of the most popular co-curricular activities here at Ola HS, as well as the most visible unit of our band program. The marching band performs at home and away football games, competitions, parades, school pep rallies, and several community events throughout the school year. The marching band rehearses after school during the fall football season. Some eighth graders may be intimidated by the thought of participating in marching band due to the reputation of the OHS bands, or the required time commitment. Please know that every year over 35 to 50 freshmen participate in the marching band and do VERY well!

What is Band Camp?

Band camp is the culmination of the creative process for the marching band show. For this year, marching band camp will be held on the campus of Ola High School. Students will learn how to march and play in an outdoor environment, and will learn the importance of team membership in creating a rewarding musical experience. Students will receive instruction from staff members in marching and playing in both individual and ensemble settings. Many bonds are formed in the marching band camp. Aside from marching and playing, ideals of trust, responsibility, teamwork, goal setting, achievement, and character are all components of the camp experience. Our band camp typically begins three weeks prior to the start of school. Dates are now posted on our band website: www.olahighschoolband.com

Is Band Camp mandatory if I plan on being in the marching band?

Unless a conflict is previously discussed with directors, yes, the marching band camp is mandatory. We will cover the equivalent of nearly six weeks of regular rehearsal hours in just a few days. The process of learning marching drill is dependent on the "dots" in the drill being filled. Without the charted marcher in attendance at any given time, it becomes difficult for those around him or her to successfully march their drill. Likewise, promptness to all rehearsals is required, so we may all begin at the same time. When the rehearsal time is posted, students should plan to arrive 15-20 minutes prior so that they are ready to begin at the given time. We also ask that unless already cleared in writing, all doctor appointments not be scheduled during band camp. Attendance and promptness will be documented at each rehearsal per band policies. Leadership members will notify the directors of tardiness and/or absence.

Marching Band – Sign me up!!! –

Interested in joining the Ola Marching Mustangs? Then we will be having an informational meeting on Tuesday, March 27th at 7:00pm in the Ola High School Commons Area. This meeting is for both parents and students who are interested in joining the marching band or colorguard, and it will cover a lot of important information about our upcoming marching season. We will be holding auditions for the marching band performers during April 23rd – 26th. Our summer/fall band calendar is now posted to our website:

www.olahighschoolband.com

Is the colorguard considered a part of the marching band?

Yes, the colorguard is a part of the marching band. We hire independent instructors to come in and teach our colorguard unit. A lot of separate learning happens with the colorguard, but they are held to the same rules, conduct code, and expectations as the rest of the marching band members.

Does high school band conflict with academics?

No! Research shows that it enhances academics . . . Most students will never encounter a problem enrolling in a band class for all four years of high school. From National Music Education Research, it has been found that students participating in band for four years score higher: SAT Verbal-20 points higher, SAT Math-25 points higher. Also, MORE THAN 75% of area band students enroll in Honors & AP courses! Finally, 60-75% of band seniors nationwide graduate “with honor” distinctions, and 15-20% of area marching band students have a 4.0 or higher GPA while participating in marching band!

From the Director’s Viewpoint

Why do I believe a student should participate in band all 4 years of high school?

Joining the Ola High School Band is one of the most rewarding, educational, and fun things a new student at Ola High School can choose to do. Besides the obvious reasons to join band, such as making new friends, learning new music, and having fun, there is a lot more students can gain from being in band at OHS. As a teacher, I want my students to be well prepared for their futures as successful college students, employees, and community leaders with a passion for life; I want OHS band students to be individuals who will go out and make a positive difference in our world. And I have done my research! I know the skills needed for a student to be well prepared in a very competitive society. I know that nothing else in the high school curricular setting develops multifaceted critical and spatial thinking better and more in-depth than four years of band. I know that band students with 4 years of band will score higher on the SAT/ACT test than students without. Colleges and businesses are looking for people who are educated AND can be organized, manage time wisely, work well with other people, demonstrate discipline, think creatively, and know how to perform well under pressure. Do you see a class offering those critical life skills in the program of study book? No, but band does all of those things!

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding registration or our band program here at Ola High School.

Todd Manson

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770-288-3222 ext. 110