

A Parent's
"Survival Guide"
to Marching Band

or

"EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO
KNOW ABOUT MARCHING BAND
BUT WERE AFRIAD TO ASK"



Common Questions:

1) What are the fees or cost per member associated with the Marching Band?

There is no membership fee. The marching band is funded by the school district. There are, however, costs for shoes (\$25.00) and gloves (\$3.00) for band and guard members, with the additional costs for tights for the guard. Optional trips may require band members to raise funds in order to cover the associated travel costs.

2) If you are in the Marching Band, can you be in a sport as well?

Yes. Practices are at different times and we work closely with the coaches to avoid meet and game conflicts. Many of our members are involved in the sports program.

3) Who are the Band Boosters? What are they raising money for?

The Band Boosters comprise the Band Committee of the Auburn Music Boosters, Inc. who have a student in the marching band. They are a support group to assist the Band Director and the staff to enhance the program. In addition to fundraising, our parents help with uniform care and fitting, sewing, maintaining or moving equipment, public relations, and more.

Money raised by boosters supports the program in many ways, among them:

Spring workshops...snacks, pizza, DJ during Band Camp...emergency supplies and / or equipment...to help fund band competition trips...student recognition awards...show enhancements...and so on.

4) What is the “Harvest of Sound”?

The Harvest of Sound is Auburn’s opportunity to host a New York State Field Band Conference marching competition. Bands from all over New York State compete at Holland Stadium. This is a district event assisted by the generous efforts of the Band Boosters. Money received from tickets, concessions, and programs are used for the band program.

5) When are meetings held and how can I become involved?

The band boosters meet 6pm on the first Monday of the month, usually in the high school music wing. All band parents are encouraged to attend. Please check the Band Schedule for specific details about Band Booster Meetings and times.

6) Does the school district supply the instruments and colorguard equipment?

For the most part, yes. This would include all the percussion and colorguard equipment and most of the marching brass. We offer some Saxes but usually woodwind players use their own instruments. Each member is responsible for the instrument assigned to him or her.

7) Who is responsible for the care and cleaning of the uniform?

There is a uniform committee charged with ensuring they fit correctly, selling gloves and shoes to members, and overseeing the maintenance of the uniforms throughout the season. The uniforms are 3 years old and band members will receive specific information about caring for their uniforms at the time of the fitting.

8) What is a Marching Band Competition?

It is a “judged” performance utilizing 7 judges to score how well the band performs. The bands attending are grouped according to certain criteria, such as the size of our school district.

9) I am interested in becoming a chaperone. What should I do?

The band has many events where the director needs assistance in chaperoning. Examples: football games, competitions, trips, and dances. The district considers any outside travel as a field trip. The director is in charge of “field trips” and therefore chooses the adults to accompany the band. Chaperone expenses are paid for as a trip expense. The band boosters are not involved in the selection of chaperones. A designated booster parent will assist the director in securing names of parents who want to help chaperone football games and competitions.

The Schedule

As parents, please help your child with being prompt at every rehearsal; 5:50 p.m. for 6:00 p.m. starting time. Please also try to arrange doctor and dental visits and family gatherings at times other than rehearsals.

Homework

Please stress the importance of staying on track with homework assignments and projects. A planner or calendar would be helpful.

Part – Time Jobs

Most employers are only too happy to work with Vanguard members when advance notice is given. Extra marching band schedules are available to give employers. It is the band member’s responsibility to avoid last minute conflicts.

Weather

Keep an eye on the weather forecasts and encourage your child to dress accordingly for conditions. Sunscreen, hats, winter coats, thermals, rain ponchos, etc. Your help, even when your child may not appreciate it, is welcomed by the staff.

Sportsmanship

Please always display good sportsmanship by giving support for all Field Conference Bands. It may be difficult to understand the outcomes as noted by the judges. However, it is at these times that the members need encouragement and praise for “giving their all”. That’s all we can ask of them. Enjoy their performance, and if the number and placement work out, so be it.

In closing, it is our hope to make your son’s or daughter’s involvement in the Maroon Vanguard a proud and enriching experience for you also. In this way, you will have lifelong memories you can share together.