

FAQs about the MVHS Band Program?

- 1. Do I have to be in marching band to be in the band?** The simple answer to this question is “no.” However, most students will choose to participate in the marching band as well as the concert band program. The marching band activity is a terrific opportunity for you to learn a great deal about music and about you. Students often build great friendships through their participation in the marching band. It’s a great way to have a place to belong and get to know a lot of people in a short amount of time. What’s more, besides being hard work, marching band is a lot of fun!! Ask anyone who has been in the Mountain View Black & Gold Brigade.
- 2. Can I be in other activities and be in the band?** Of course! We encourage all of our students to explore their options in high school. Several of our band students participate in various school athletic organizations as well as clubs, and even other musical organizations. Band students participate in soccer, cross-country, baseball, basketball, cheerleading, track, chorus, orchestra, and many other non-band activities. The main conflicting activities with marching band are football and varsity cheerleading.
- 3. Do I have to take private lessons to be in the band?** Private lessons are the most efficient way of improving on your instrument. Through private study, a professional on your instrument works with you on a one-to-one basis to hear you play and give you tips for improvement. Unlike getting help from a teacher when your math or English grade is low, private lessons enhance and enable the musical progress of every level student. You can improve as an individual much faster through private study and band rather than just band alone. However, it is not a requirement to take private lessons. It is only highly recommended!!
- 4. High school is hard. Will I be able to do band and maintain good grades?** YES!!!! There certainly are challenges and academic demands in high school. Band students have consistently ranked amongst the highest achieving students for decades across the country. Our own band students are members of the National Honor Society, National Merit Scholars and other high honor organizations. So, you can see, it is possible to maintain good grades and participate in the band program. You will have to work for it, but anything worth having is worth working for, right?!?!?!? IT CAN BE DONE!!!
- 5. How do the older students treat freshmen?** Upperclassmen in band see themselves as leaders and mentors for freshmen. They have been through what freshmen go through and they are there to help and show them the ropes. You will find older students to be bright and helpful in getting acclimated to High School.
- 6. What if I don’t play that well?** The Mountain View Band has a place for anyone who commits to being a part of an excellent organization. Because we are able to have various classes based on playing ability, there IS a class for those who want to play an instrument. Students are taught at the level you are currently at and we help you achieve the next level. That’s exactly why we’re here! You shouldn’t be intimidated by the successes this program has had so far. The MV Band is made up of people just like you – people who enjoy playing an instrument and are willing to work hard at improving each day!
- 7. How can I be in marching band if I play the oboe or bassoon?** There are several instruments that we do not use on the marching field for various reasons. However, we CAN find a place for

you in the marching band. Because the fingering systems are so similar, we can have oboists march flute or saxophone while bassoonists can march tenor or bari sax. You may be able to rent those instruments for the season from a local music store. There is also the possibility of playing in the front ensemble if the double reed player has any piano experience (or guitar). We like to keep double reed players involved in the marching band!

8. I hear that marching band rehearses all the time. How much time does the band actually take?

During the summer we will have 3 rehearsals that if you're in town, you're expected to attend. Band Camp will take place in late July and then we rehearse Tuesdays & Thursdays for less than 3 hours each day from August till October. With the summer rehearsals before school begins, we're able to get a lot accomplished so that we won't be as busy once school begins. However, you will also have Football games on Fridays in the Fall as well as a few Saturday performances for the GCPS Exhibition and away competition/festivals.

9. If I don't sign up for band now, can I join my sophomore year? Most students sign up for band their freshmen year and they love it so much that they stay in it for all four years! If a student doesn't participate their freshmen year, they will miss a year of musical ensemble development. It would make it difficult to redevelop your musical skills after taking a year off. Rather, we encourage you to sign up for your freshmen year, give it a shot and see how it goes. As mentioned earlier, when most students do this, they're very glad they did!!!

10. How can I take band for four years in high school and still complete all my college entrance requirements? It is very difficult these days to fulfill all of requirements for college. However, it CAN BE DONE!!! With proper planning and good advice, your schedule can be put together throughout your four years in high school and make it work for you! Keep in mind that world geography is not required. A typical schedule for a HS freshmen would include English, math, science, band, health/PE (unless taken during summer school) and another elective.

11. What if I don't go to Band Camp? All students are expected to attend all summer rehearsals and Band Camp. There are times when conflicts may not be avoided and these will be handled on an individual basis. Students are required to attend Marching Band Camp. This band performs music and marching formations of intricate design and with high individual demand, and it would be impossible to make up the hours for rehearsal at Band Camp.

12. How do I register for band? Glad you asked. Contact Mr. Owens to confirm if you've already registered for the class but then attend the registration after Spring Break. This registration is for marching band and concert classes. Marching students pay deposits and concert students can also begin to make payments.