

Freshman Family Handbook

2019-2020



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Pride, Tradition, Excellence

Welcome, new band members, to the Manzano Royal Guard Band family!

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Welcome to the Manzano High School Guard! On behalf of the entire board, we welcome you and thank you for choosing to become part of this awesome experience.

The Board will send out weekly emails to keep you informed of important dates and information. ***For this reason, we need a valid email for you, the parent, as well as your child. Please provide it to the board secretary, Danny Dunlavy, at dannydunlavy@yahoo.com as soon as possible.***

A Year in the Royal Guard

JULY-AUGUST

Band Camp

Band camp starts July 23 and this year will run 2 weeks ending with a parent performance on Saturday August 3 at 11:30 at the east side of Wilson stadium parking lot with picnic immediately following at Los Altos Pool (we will be securing our reservation this summer – if it changes, we will make an announcement)

Friday July 19 and Monday July 22 DM/SL Day: The pre- camp begins with the drum majors and section leaders only from 8:00 to 4:00.

Tuesday July 23 from 8:00 to 12:00 Freshman Day is for the incoming freshmen, drum majors and section leaders only - to orient the students on marching techniques.

Wednesday July 24 Full Band Regular Practice 8:00 to 4:00 daily

Work on the marching show in full begins. The marching show will be performed at football games and marching competitions. Outdoor marching practice is in the morning and afternoons are typically for music practice inside. Lunch is on your own. Bring something to eat or go to a nearby restaurant within walking distance of MHS. This year there will be two practices that continue into the evening. Tuesday 7/30 and Thursday 8/1 from 6:00 to 8:00 in addition to all day practice those days. This builds in a 2 hour dinner break.

Saturday August 3 last day of camp 8:00 to 11:30

Parent performance is at 11:30 followed immediately by a picnic at Los Altos pool unless otherwise announced.

Each day students will need:

- To eat a good breakfast – marching is physical, hard work!

- To have their instrument in good playing condition;
- Athletic shoes (NO flip flops, or sandals - the students will be practicing on pavement and will be moving their bodies in all directions much like dancers do);
- Warm weather attire that meets APS dress code;
- Sunscreen, hat and sunglasses;
- Bring refillable water bottle. Coolers of ice water are available for student to fill their water bottles. It is really important for students to stay hydrated;
- Black flip folder with 15 sleeves for music – you can buy one at Baum’s Music.
- Instrument lyre except for flute, percussion and some trumpet players;
- Reeds, mouthpieces, sticks and mallets;
- Colorguard – flags and rifles as required by Director (all are provided).

Band parent volunteers will be present in the morning to set up shade canopies, have water coolers filled and available and will provide a healthy snack. Students are on their own for lunch each day.

AUGUST – NOVEMBER

Daily: Zero-hour practice – arrive by 6:20 am

This is a graded class that all marching band/colorguard students take, and involves marching and music practice. It starts at 6:30 am! A band mantra you will hear over and over is: *To be early is to be on time, to be on time is to be late and to be late is unacceptable.* This applies to every event, including zero hour. Freshman will be taking symphonic band as well, which is their 1st period class. Students should plan to arrive to class early each day to have time to get their instruments and walk up to the parking lot on the east side of Wilson stadium where marching practice is conducted. Be prepared with a jacket. It is cold in the morning even when the weather is nice during the day.

Weekly: Tuesday Afternoon Practice

The band and colorguard have a mandatory additional practice every Tuesday after school which runs from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. If the student has sports or other after school activity, please let Mr. Perez know. Often something can be worked out with the team coach to attend part of or every other Tuesday practice.

Weekly: Sectionals

The students will have a weekly practice with their section to practice music and marching. The section leader will confer with the section students to select a day which is best for the majority. It is difficult to find time in student’s busy schedules but it

is important that students attend this weekly practice prepared and with a good attitude.

Football Games

The band typically attends all local football games. Students will arrive at Manzano for uniform checkout and will walk to Wilson, or take a bus to one of the other stadiums (Community or Milne) The band marches either before the game (if MHS is the visiting team) or at halftime (if MHS is the home team). The band also plays pep tunes

in the stands during the game. Band parents usually congregate in the stands next to the band.

October Competitions and Concerts

The MHS band typically marches in three or four competitions each marching season. Two competitions (Pageant of Bands and Zia Marching Festival) are held in Albuquerque – one at Wilson Stadium and one at UNM’s University stadium. A third competition we often attend is the Valencia Marching Festival in Los Lunas.

NOTE: Typically October is the heavy competition month, with three or four weekend competitions. Good time management is key in October. Get homework and other assignments done early! It is a good idea to go into October “ahead of the game” in regard to schoolwork and preparedness. It is also a lot of fun!

October 5 - *Valencia Classic*

October 19 – Zia

October **tba** District 7 Marching Music Performance Assessment

October 26 - Pageant of Bands (POB)

August

August 3 10:00 to 2:00 - Goodwill fundraiser MHS Parking Lot outside band room

Bring gently used items (clothing, household – no big stuff, no furniture or electronics please) for a general fundraiser. The band is paid a set rate for each bin of items collected. It is our second biggest general fundraiser of the year.

September

September 7 – New Mexico State Fair Parade

TBA March-a-Thon – on a Saturday morning date in September

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER

Football Games

In November and December, the band transitions from marching season into concert season. There are still a few football games left, but usually there's no marching. We sometimes will attend the state playoff games to support the football team. These games work just like regular season games, with the band meeting at MHS and taking buses to the game.

Concert Season

Manzano has three concert bands, Concert Band, Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble. Freshman, through participation in their 1st period symphonic band class, will be in symphonic. Any student, including freshman, may try out for the wind-ensemble. This means that freshman may participate in both concert bands. Those selected will sign up for and attend the Wind Ensemble class in the spring, held during Zero hour. The Wind ensemble will begin meeting in November-December to get ready for the holiday concert.

Tryouts:

All-State and Southwest Honor Band Tryouts

Tryouts for both All-State and Southwest Honor Band are typically held in November or December. These tryouts are optional, and require a nominal fee (~\$12). However, they do give kids experience with the process of tryouts, and can be beneficial. Students are responsible for their own transportation to these tryouts, which are typically held either during or after school hours. The last few years, these tryouts have been held at La Cueva High School. All-State audition resources can be found at <http://www.nmmea.com/audition.htm>. The music can be challenging, so start practicing early!

Holiday Concert

The band will present a holiday concert in December at the MHS performing arts center (PAC) on campus which is on the Lomas side of campus. Occasionally, the middle schools are invited to play as well.

JANUARY – MAY

Performances

Performances during second semester include several concerts held at the PAC, as well as at District Festival. District Festival is usually held at one of the Albuquerque high schools and is a judged concert event. Both Concert bands perform for Festival. Wind Ensemble may also compete at the State Band Contest later in the spring.

Solo and Ensemble

The Solo and Ensemble Festival takes place in the spring. This is a chance for the kids to be evaluated by judges on solos or ensemble pieces of the student's choosing. Mr. Perez may be able to help find ensemble pieces. If you are working with a private instructor, you may already be working on a solo piece!

Basketball Games

Students are encouraged to sign up for pep band. This is an optional band, but you do earn lettering points (see glossary) and is always a lot of fun. The pep band plays for the home basketball games, both the women's and men's games.

Spring Trip

The trips are every other year and 2020 is a trip year to Disneyland.

This is an optional trip and usually is centered around some type of musical performance or workshop, with a lot of fun thrown in! These trips are usually four to six days and requires an additional fee. *The student must have paid their regular band fee in addition to the trip fee to participate.*

Special Events

There are a few other activities that occur in the spring semester, such as the Band Awards Banquet and graduation (a band of freshmen to juniors play for the graduation ceremony). Information is given about these activities later in the year.

Final Concert: In May before graduation all the bands play in a final concert in the cafeteria which is also a potluck supper. Band Banquet is the very last activity open to all to attend and honors graduating seniors.

OMG, that's a lot of stuff! – Is it worth it?

You may ask after the end of that first week of getting in your car at some crazy hour and driving your kid to zero hour, "is it worth it?" Every band parent who has been through it for a while will tell you, yes! Sit in the stands at Pageant of Bands and Zia and watch what these kids have learned! It's crazy to think that kid who you can't get to put their laundry away, is marching in step, playing music, and on the way picking up self-confidence and a great group of friends.

Great group of kids. Many of these kids will tell you this isn't just band kids, it band 'family'. It's accepting and where kids are allowed to be themselves. Another band parent blogged:

I can say without reservation that the marching band is absolutely the least homogenous, in the sense that there are kids from every part of the school and

all different circumstances. Other activities tend to bring like kids together, and somehow band is different. This will put your kid with some kids they'd never meet, otherwise. But the way in which they're all alike is that they're all really good kids. They work hard in school, they work hard in band.

Academic achievement. The benefits of music education are well-documented. There's left brain development and increased spatial intelligence. Studies have shown increased scores on standardized tests for music students, and better high school grades. Our students appear to be no exception. It was really inspiring to see how many academic achievers were presented at the band banquet! Oh, and if they don't maintain grades, they are out of marching show – gives them incentive to keep up in school!

They participate in other activities. We've had homecoming kings and queens from band. They participate in football, soccer, cross country, track, tennis to name a few sports. They're in Model UN, DECA and MESA. They perform in school plays. They volunteer with clubs and with their churches. All while participating in band. They become very good at time management!

What you can do to help

All this activity takes help. Not only are there the fundraisers, but we need help with chaperoning, uniforms, collecting fees (band parent). Here's a list of a few activities you can help with

Chaperoning	Pit Crew
Band room parent (zero hour, collect fees)	Winterguard Festival
Fundraising (car wash, Goodwill Drive)	Booster Booth
Trades to help with building or fixing	Band Banquet
Uniforms	Pageant of Bands

Band Fees

The band fees cover the cost of marching show, drill, marching band staff, equipment, uniform cleaning and repair, buses, snacks and food (for longer trips), as well as other band operational fees. There will be a smaller separate fee collected by school administration and all students must buy marching shoes which typically cost \$35. Gently used shoes may be available depending on what is donated back to the band. They are collected, cleaned and available for taking on a first come first served basis during band camp. The estimated total cost is in the range of \$250 for all fees and shoes. There will be an option to pay on line with pay pal or checks are accepted made to MHS Band Boosters. Scholarships are available for financial hardship. Please contact the Booster President for an application.

It is difficult to talk about money, ***but we really need you to pay your band fees as early in the fall semester as possible.*** We provide lots of opportunities for individual fund raising which allows students to make money to pay for their fees. General fundraising is conducted to keep the overall band fee low and the fundraising goal counts on everyone paying their fee.

Glossary

Accounts - An account is established for each student. Performance costs and other items, such as T-shirts, are charged to the account. Monthly statements are sent via e-mail or regular mail. Parents are responsible for paying the account off monthly. The individual fundraisers apply directly to the student's account.

All-State - Bands representing the best musicians in the state. Chosen by individual try-outs, which are typically held at the end of November. The music is usually available in the summer from Baum's or Music Mart.

Alternates, Shadows - Marching band members who alternate with other students for the show. Marching shows are designed for a specific instrumentation and number of students. If a student signs up late for marching season, or if a section has more instruments than the show design, those student will be "alternates" take turns marching with others. Shadows are determined during band camp. Students with medical issues that may keep them from marching can still participate as shadows.

Band Banquet - An evening dinner near the end of the school year to recognize the accomplishments of the band and individual students. Typically includes a nice dinner, a media presentation summarizing the year, serious awards and humorous awards among the students.

Band Boosters – a 501(c)(3) non-profit parent organization that supports the band by volunteering and supplementing the limited APS funding. The quality of the band and the amount of activities the students can be involved with are dependent on strong booster support.

Band Camp - All-day rehearsals providing intensive learning and practicing, beginning roughly two weeks before school starts. Practices are typically in the Wilson parking lot, east side of the stadium, as well as in the band room. Bring lots of water, sunscreen and a good pair of shoes.

Band Picnic - Casual kick-off event for the band year. Usually includes a potluck at a local park for all band members, parents and siblings.

Band Staff - Quality local musicians and choreographers who participate on a part-time basis with the band and colorguard all year long. This group is paid for through band fees and the Boosters' general fund.

Booster Board Meeting - The monthly meeting of the Band Boosters. Open to all.

Booster Executive Officers -The official decision-making body of the band boosters. Meets separately from the Booster Board Meeting to provide direction to the booster program.

Color Guard - The group of students in the band who use flags, rifles and other elements on the field to supplement and add color and drama to the marching show. These students do not play instruments on the field, but are a critical part of the overall quality of the show. Musicians and non-musicians alike are needed for this critical group.

Competitions - Events where the band competes against other bands. There are typically three to four marching competitions and one concert competition.

Concert Season -Typically November - April. Several concerts are performed during concert season, including district festival and Spring Trip.

Drum Majors - Student leaders who conduct the band during the marching shows and when the band plays from the stands.

Eligibility - In order to be eligible to participate in any extra-curricular activity, a student must have no "F" and better than a 2.0 GPA. An ineligible band student will not march.

Costs - A general term for the expenses that are accrued over the course of the year for band students. Things that cost the student money includes things like t-shirts, trip expenses (meals are included) and other activities. Accounts are set up in each student's name, and many fund raising activities credit directly to the participating volunteer's student's account. Many parents cover all of the costs for their students from fundraising activities.

Fundraising - There are many opportunities to raise funds for the band general fund, and for each student's account. Some students are able to completely pay the year's fees with fundraising.

Hat Box – This is where your students marching band hat lives. Each box has a number, assigned to a student.

Handbook - The MHS band handbook is typically in a booklet. Includes "everything" you need to know about MHS band including an extensive calendar, student information, parent information, rules and guidelines. The handbook can be found on the website.

Honor Band A District band composed of high school juniors and seniors throughout Albuquerque. Members are nominated by each schools band director, based on their academics and musical ability.

Letter, lettering points - Band students may earn a letter if they meet the minimum requirements based on participation in performances and activities. Band students can earn a letter during their freshman year. Many of the activities provide opportunities to

earn lettering points.

Marching Season - Typically late July through October. Includes additional rehearsals and usually three marching competitions.

Pageant of Bands - "New Mexico Pageant of Bands" (AKA "POB") is a marching competition planned, organized and presented by volunteers representing the Albuquerque area band booster organizations. Selling advertisements for the program is a great fundraising opportunity.

Parent Performance - Culmination of band camp, on last day of camp. The pot luck is usually held after the performance, at a local park.

Pep Band - The general term for bands that play in support of school functions. Most often pep bands play for home basketball games.

Pit - The group of percussionists that play from the sideline during the marching show.

Pit Crew - The group of parents who load and unload instruments (not just the pit) and props on the truck and help set up the Pit and Drum Major stands.

Practice Field - A paved and lined lot east of Wilson stadium.

Section Leaders - The student leadership for each section. Selection is typically based on leadership qualities and musical ability. Section leaders are selected by the band director and band staff.

Show - The complex interaction of music and marching around a central theme. Typically, a show will be tweaked and fine-tuned throughout marching season with additional moves and/or props.

Show Shirts - A T-shirt representing the show from each year. Students wear these, but parents can order their own show shirts, too! These are worn under the marching bibs, for pep games and for 'casual' performances.

Solo and Ensemble - Judged performances by soloists or ensembles at a festival in the spring, usually in March.

Symphonic Band - The concert season ensemble that meet during 1st hour, typically composed of freshman and sophomores.

Uniforms - Students are fitted during band camp for their marching uniform. Colorguard uniforms are purchased each year according to the show's theme. The band concert uniforms use pants and a tuxedo jacket.

Wilson Stadium - Site for many football games and Pageant of Bands. Just across the parking lot from the band room.

Wind Ensemble - The concert season ensemble selected by audition. Wind Ensemble defines a specific selection of instruments. Meets at Zero Hour during concert season.

Winter Guard - The activities of the Color Guard after marching season ends. They perform to pre-recorded music and participate in winter guard competitions throughout the spring.

Zia Marching Band Fiesta - "Zia" is a marching competition sponsored by the University of New Mexico. Held at University Stadium in Albuquerque. All bands march in the preliminary competition, and the top 10 bands march again at finals for final placement.

Contacts

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Johnny Mendez		
and Andrea Flores	Colorguard	
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Rodriguez	POB Rep	
James Strickland	Pit Coordinator	
Russell Berman	Band staff woodwinds	
Lee Ann Black	Band staff visuals	
Rick Garcia	Band staff visuals	
Spenser Gomez-		
Nelson	Band staff brass	
Adrian Gutierrez	Band staff battery	
James Landron	Band staff front ensem.	

Another great place for information is our websites: <https://manzanohighschoolband.shutterfly.com/>. Once you join the site, you will receive automatic notices for all events on our calendar.

And coming soon, it is under construction: www.manzanohsmusic.org