

Freshman Family Handbook

2021-2022



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Pride, Tradition, Excellence

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

2021-2022 Season

Welcome to the Manzano High School Royal 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, Zane Miller, at mhsroyalguard@gmail.com as soon as possible. More information can be located on the band website: www.manzanohsmusic.org***

A Year in the Royal Guard

JULY

Band Camp

Band camp starts July 19th and ends July 31st, ending with a parent performance on Saturday July 31st at 12:00pm at Wilson stadium or the east parking lot of Wilson Stadium. A picnic will immediately following at Los Altos Pool (we will be securing our reservation this summer – if it changes, we will make an announcement).

July 15-16 DM/SL Day: The pre- camp begins with the drum majors and section leaders only from 8:00 to 4:00. (Time to be adjusted as required by the Band Director)

July 19-20 from 8:00am to 12:00pm Freshman & Sophomore Day: This day is for the incoming freshmen and sophomores, drum majors and section leaders only - to orient the students on marching techniques.

July 21-23 8:00am to 4:00pm: Full Band Regular Practice

AND

July 26-30 8:00am to 8:00pm: Full Band Regular Practice

These days the band will begin to work on the full marching show. Typical band camp days consist of outdoor marching practice in the mornings (8am-12pm), lunch (12pm-1pm), and indoor music/sectional practices in the afternoons (1pm-4pm). The second week of camp, students will be released for dinner and return for additional practice from 6:00pm-8:00pm.

The Band Director can adjust these schedules needed.

APS grab and go breakfast and lunch meals will be provided for free, but students are permitted to bring their own food or leave campus to eat during the lunch break.

July 31st, Last day of camp 8:00am to 12:00pm

Students will practice in the morning (8am-11:30am) followed by a **Parent Performance at 12:00pm** at Wilson Stadium or Wilson Stadium east parking lot. Immediately following the performance a picnic will be held at Bianchetti Park or a local pool (location may change).

Student requirements for camp:

- Band instrument in excellent playing condition
- Tennis (athletic) shoes (NO flip flops or sandals)
- Sunscreen and hat
- Water
- Water bottle
- Black pep band flip folder with at least 15 sleeves (can be purchased at Baum's Music Store)
- Instrument lyre (except for percussion, flute, and some trumpet players).
- Reeds, mouthpieces, sticks, and mallets as required by the Director.
- Colorguard: Flags and rifles as required by the Director (both are provided).
- A positive attitude and willingness to learn

Band parent volunteers will be present during the am practices to set up shade canopies, provide water and a healthy snack (bananas and watermelon). They will also provide water during the second week of evening practices.

AUGUST – NOVEMBER

Daily: Zero-hour practice – 6:30am (arrive by 6:20am)

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 a 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 and/or weather appropriate clothing. It can be cold in the morning even when the weather is warm during the day.

Weekly: Tuesday Afternoon Practice 4:30pm-6:30pm

The band and colorguard have additional mandatory practice every Tuesday after school 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 (additional day)

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 a 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 Varsity football games normally scheduled on Thursday or Friday evenings throughout the season. 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. Volunteers will provide support to students during games.

August

TBD - August 7 - 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

No events currently scheduled.

October Competitions and Concerts

The MHS band typically marches in three or four competitions each marching season. Possible competitions for the 2021-2022 season are:

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 - 2 - [Valencia Classic Marching Festival](#) - Valencia High School, Los Lunas

October 23 - (All-Day) – [Zia Marching Band Fiesta](#) - UNM Stadium, Albuquerque

October - TBD - Marching Music Performance Assessment

October -TBD [Possible Oct 23 or 30th) (All-Day) - [Pageant of Bands \(POB\)](#) - Wilson Stadium

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER

In November and December, the band transitions from marching season into concert season. There may be a few football games scheduled, but usually there are no marching band activities associated. The Band will sometimes 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 freshmen 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 <https://www.nmmea.com/>.com/ The music can be challenging, so start practicing early!

Holiday Concert - November 29th - 7:00pm

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 the 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 the 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 it 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 (PENDING)

The trips are every other year and 2022 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 require 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 is a 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 fee for 2021 is \$400. This covers the cost of the marching show, drill, marching band staff, equipment, uniforms, uniform cleaning and repair, buses, snacks and food (for longer trips), as well as other band operational fees. Additionally, there will be a separate \$50 fee collected by school administration. All students are required to purchase 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. Band fees will be billed and paid through Charms. The school administration fee can be paid by

check to Manzano Band and turned into Mr. Perez. 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 fundraising 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.